

Israeli settlers seize land in protest over attack

ELON MOREH (AFP) — Around 20 Jewish settlers on Thursday occupied a parcel of land near their West Bank settlement of Elon Moreh after one of their cars was raked with machine gun fire. The settlers are threatening to put up a makeshift settlement on the land unless they are given greater protection by the Israeli army, witnesses said. Unknown attackers opened fire in the early hours of Friday on the car of the settlement's rabbi, military sources said. They said the car was hit, but that nobody was hurt. Two Israeli border guards were wounded near Nablus on Wednesday when a roadside bomb exploded as they escorted a bus transporting Jewish students.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالعمامة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

New opium poppy fields in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Opium poppy farmers in Turkey have been given the go-ahead to plant new fields by government regulations published on Friday. The crop, used to make medical morphine, can now be cultivated in three extra provinces in the country. Officials say there are now 30,000 hectares of strictly-controlled poppy fields. The new regulations mean that production could extend to between 70,000 to 80,000 hectares, a level last seen in the early 1970s. At the moment between 15 and 20 tonnes of morphine base is produced each year from the crop, 95 per cent of which is exported. In 1971, the crop was banned by the Turkish government which bowed to pressure from the United States. Limited legal production started again in 1974.

Volume 22 Number 6580

AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1997, RABI I 7, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Fifteen Palestinians shot in Hebron as clashes escalate

HEBRON (R) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 15 Palestinians, two seriously, on Friday as bullets and petrol bombs flew in the West Bank flashpoint of Hebron, witnesses said. They said masked Palestinians flung scores of petrol bombs at Israeli soldiers who fired rubber-coated metal bullets from rooftops and from behind barricades along Shallah Street, which divides Hebron into Israeli and Palestinian (PNA)-controlled sections.

Medics at a Palestinian field clinic set up behind the line of clashes said they evacuated at least 15 people who were knocked down by the rubber-coated metal bullets. They said two teenagers were in serious condition after being shot in the head.

Israeli military sources said in a statement troops used "crowd-control methods" against Palestinians hurling stones, Molotov cocktails and one home-made bomb. The statement said there were no casualties on the Israeli side.

Hebron has been a scene of almost daily unrest since a right-wing Jewish woman plastered storefronts with anti-Muslim posters depicting the Muslim Prophet Muhammad as a pig two weeks ago. Israel-PNA peace talks have been frozen for four months.

Religious feelings were further inflamed when Palestinians found Al Yacoubia School was ransacked and four copies of the Koran torn up. Palestinians charged Israeli sol-

diers desecrated the holy books but the Israeli army denied the charge. The clashes began when five masked youths burned two Israeli flags while others attacked a group of soldiers holed up inside the school.

Some of the demonstrators used slingshots. Witnesses said more than 130 petrol bombs were thrown at soldiers, setting the stone-strewn road between the embattled groups on fire. They said two explosions were heard, apparently from homemade bombs.

Israel handed over most of Hebron, home to more than 100,000 Palestinians, to the PNA in January under a self-rule deal but kept troops behind to guard some 400 Jewish settlers living in the heart of the old city.

Israeli troops have ringed the city with checkpoints, turning back Palestinians from nearby villages. The siege, described by Israel as necessary for security, has hurt the economy of the town which depends on trade with Palestinians outside Hebron.

Ten Palestinians injured in clashes in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Ten Palestinians were injured here Friday in clashes with Israeli soldiers who fired plastic bullets after being attacked by petrol bombs, witnesses said. One protester, 22-year-old Daoud Khawth, was seriously wounded after being struck by live ammunition, and later had a leg amputated, the sources said. The violence erupted when around 100 Palestinian demonstrators converged on Rachel's Tomb, a holy site venerated by both Muslims and Jews which is guarded by the Israeli army.

Arab League calls for concrete U.S. action

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League called Thursday for

the United States to translate its announcement of new moves to relaunch the Middle East peace process into concrete actions.

U.S. President Bill Clinton hinted Wednesday in Madrid at "new specific actions" to jumpstart the deadlocked process but said discretion was important to ensure the success of his endeavour.

"It is obvious that we're going to have to see some new specific actions taken in order to get this thing going again," Mr. Clinton said. "I think it can be done. It is a question of will and risk, calculated risk," he added.

Assistant League Secretary General Mohammad Zakareya Ismail told reporters: "This isn't the first time that the United States has made such an announcement."

He called for the U.S. administration to "take concrete measures on the ground."

"Speaking only of ideas on restarting the peace process gives Israel time to make Jerusalem Jewish," he warned.



Israeli soldiers jump as a petrol bomb explodes near them during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron Friday. Clashes between Palestinian and Israeli soldiers continue as 11 Palestinians and 2 Israeli soldiers were reported injured (AFP photo)

Stranded Iraqi athletes threaten a border sit-in over Pan-Arab Games

MASNA' (AFP) — Iraqi athletes stranded at the Lebanese border said Friday they would stage a sit-in to protest Lebanon's refusal to let them take part in the 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

"If Lebanon doesn't give us entry visas and allow us our right to participate in the games, then we will stage a sit-in on the border," said Asil Tabra, head of the 95-strong Iraqi delegation.

The athletes arrived Friday morning at Masnaa on the Syrian-Lebanese border after a gruelling 24-hour journey across the desert from Baghdad to Damascus — despite being warned they would not be allowed into Lebanon.

Ms. Tabra said the Iraqis "regretted" the position of the Lebanese authorities, not least because they had received an official invitation to the games from the Arab League.

"We are waiting for the authorities to tell us officially that they refuse to give us a visa because we won't take a verbal refusal," Ms. Tabra said.

It could be a long wait. Security officials say they have no intention of putting their refusal in writing. The Iraqi athletes rolled up at the border in five coaches plastered with giant colour posters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

As they got out brandishing the Iraqi flag and shouting slogans in praise of their president, Lebanese border guards herded them into a hangar and stopped journalists and cameramen from approaching them.

The Iraqis said they were happy to be in Lebanon but disappointed at Lebanese in-hospitality. A group of them was allowed into Lebanon briefly though to eat at a border restaurant.

A Lebanese official said the

authorities decided not to let the Iraqis take part in the Pan-Arab Games for fear of upsetting Gulf Arab states.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which have been pouring funds into Lebanon to help it rebuild after its 1975-1990 civil war, have threatened to boycott the games opening Saturday if Iraq participates.

Riyadh contributed \$20 million and Kuwait \$6 million to the reconstruction of the Beirut Sports City where the games are taking place.

The Iraqi National Olympic Committee, chaired by Saddam's eldest son Uday, has accused Lebanon of bowing to Gulf dollars in barring Iraq from the games. Beirut cut diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1994 after an Iraqi opposition figure was assassinated in the Lebanese capital.

But in January it released from jail three Iraqi diplomats implicated in the attack in a sign of a thawing of relations.

Since then, at Syria's instigation, Lebanon has begun to reactivate trade and diplomatic links with Iraq. In April a Lebanese trade delegation visited Baghdad for the first time since the break in ties. The new row over the games could threaten the fledgling trade ties between the two countries, which are important to Lebanon in that Iraq once was the destination of 20 per cent of its exports.

Iraq was banned from the last Pan-Arab Games in Syria in 1992 because of the invasion of Kuwait two years earlier, but its athletes travelled to Jordan anyway to demonstrate at the Syrian border.

The Pan-Arab Games were launched in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1953 and are generally held at four-

year intervals.

They had been planned for 1996 in Beirut, but were delayed because of Israel's offensive against Lebanon

which killed 175 people, mostly civilians. The last time Lebanon hosted the Pan-Arab Games was in 1957.



Iraqi athlete, Maysa Hussein, 18, is wrapped into her country's flag to protect herself from the sun, Friday in Masnaa at the Syrian-Lebanese border, where 95 Iraqi athletes are stranded after Lebanon refused to let them take part in the 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut July 12-27 (AFP photo)

Israeli premier to disappoint all lest he changes policy — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed his disappointment with the performance of the Israeli government and leadership vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process, but he expressed hope that the future will witness improvement and will carry hope to the people of the region.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Television, the King said that the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would disappoint himself and the Israeli people as well as all peoples who believe in peace if he pursued the present policies.

King Hussein, who returned to Amman Thursday following a tour of European countries where he discussed the Middle East crisis among other issues, said that the parties to the Middle East peace process should be committed to the pledges they had undertaken so that peace can be achieved.

Noting that he would continue to deal with the Israeli prime minister as long as he is in power, the King pointed out that he had offered Mr. Netanyahu all possible backing towards pursuing peace negotiations.

But the King noted that Israel is at present rife with internal political struggle.

Expressing deep concern over the stalled peace process, the King said that all concerned parties should work intensively to salvage the peace process and help the people of this region who had suffered for long, to reap the fruits of peace.

Stressing the importance of peace for the Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese, the King said that everything possible should be done to ensure the success of peace, adding that despite Egyptian and U.S. mediation efforts he has not yet witnessed tangible progress, warning that time was passing rapidly by and expressing concern that the loss of hope would result in explosions.

King Hussein expressed the view that contacts among the parties have not stopped but he warned that feelings of frustration such as those which manifested themselves in the Hebron violent events could ruin all hopes and return the region to square one.

He said that hatred was growing among the desperate people, and in the absence of security and stability, there can be no chance for peace.

Referring to the Jordanian people's stand towards peace, he said the peoples of the whole region have a

feeling that matters are not moving in the right direction. He said that he had struggled to see peace prevailing between the Israeli and Jordanian people because feelings of apprehension and concerns on both sides are similar.

Stressing the need for the peace process to progress along all tracks, the King said that he believes people are losing patience with politicians and leaders who are not offering them anything, because people are fed up with wars and bloodshed.

King Hussein reiterated that he is totally committed to the cause of peace despite the fact that peace is facing tremendous challenges, but he denied that he has other plans for the West Bank noting that the territory is now in the hands of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. However, he added, Jordan will continue to offer the Palestinian people all the help it can.

Asked about his health condition, the King said he enjoys perfect health noting that the recent tests have revealed no trace of cancer.

King Hussein said that his main concern is to serve his people and fulfil the objective of comprehensive peace for the benefit of future generations.

U.N. retains sanctions on Libya after stormy session

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council retained sanctions against Libya on Thursday after African envoys argued for a compromise on the location of a possible trial of suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Libya's U.N. Ambassador Abuzid Omar Dordah, blaming the council's stand on the United States and Britain, told reporters, "we can from now on behave as if these sanctions were not there."

But when asked to explain, he said that Libya "would study this carefully with our brothers" in Africa.

The council appears at an impasse in forcing Libya to extradite to Britain or the United States two alleged intelligence agents indicted in both countries on charges of planting a bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103. The plane exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people, including 11 on the ground.

African and Arab nations

have said the two suspects should be tried in a neutral site rather than Britain or the United States, as demanded in a 1992 council resolution. Diplomats say this encourages Tripoli to defy sanctions.

On the other hand, efforts to strengthen the sanctions, such as instituting an oil embargo like the one the council imposed on Iraq, would not draw the requisite votes.

The council's decision was announced by its president, Peter Osvald of Sweden, after a stormy two-hour closed-door debate in a periodic 120-day review of the sanctions.

These included an air and arms embargo, the downgrading of diplomatic relations, a freeze on some Libyan assets abroad, and a ban on some equipment used in oil terminals and refineries. But they did not affect oil exports or drilling equipment.

Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Elaraby said many council members supported Egypt, Kenya and Guinea-

Bissau's effort to find alternative venues for the trial and to have the United Nations study the impact of the sanctions on Libya and its neighbours.

"Today was not a routine review," he said. "Without a trial, no one can say who committed this heinous crime. The innocent people of Libya, the innocent people of neighbouring countries are suffering, and the Security Council, in my view, has not discharged its responsibility in this affair."

The Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity have proposed the two Libyan suspects be tried by Scottish judges under Scottish law at the World Court in the Hague or by a special criminal tribunal to be established there or in a neutral country determined by the council.

But the United States, France and Britain accused the groups of attempting to "misrepresent" the controversy as a dispute between Libya and their countries only.

Majali to visit 3 more Arab countries

MUTAH (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Friday said that he will soon visit Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Morocco to discuss means of promoting bilateral relations.

Speaking at a meeting of the board of directors of the Karak Restoration Foundation, Dr. Majali said that he discussed in his last trips to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Tunisia bilateral ties as well as joint investment projects.

Dr. Majali commended the Egyptian role in activating a common Arab market, saying that Jordan supports such an initiative.

Dr. Majali said that the government is now working on preparing suitable legislation in order to exercise decentralisation, pointing out to the efforts exerted in this regard.

Earlier, Dr. Majali told Sawt Al Arab Radio that Israel adopts a tactical position towards the peace process, noting that the Israeli government cannot

withstand such intransigent attitude for a long time.

"The Israeli intransigence will come to an end since peace is a basic need for the whole Middle East region and people as well as an Arab and international strategic choice which no party can evade," said Dr. Majali.

MADE IN PAKISTAN

HAND MADE CARPET - SILK AND WOOL & FURNITURE, For One Week Only
AT LUBNA GROUP TEL 845855 JORDANIAN TIME



DIED WHILE RUNNING AFTER A BETTER LIFE: Turkish coast guard personnel and fishermen help carry a stretcher on which a body of a drowned northern Iraqi woman lies, one of 40 Iraqi immigrants who were travelling illegally from Turkey to Greece when their flimsy boat sank in the Aegean Sea Thursday. Fourteen bodies have been recovered from the sea as the Turkish navy and rescue teams continued to search for more (Reuters photo)

Palestinians, Israelis pledge support for peace process

ATHENS (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian officials on Friday pledged support for the peace process but failed to bridge gaps on Israeli security concerns and Palestinian demands for a freeze on settlements.

An Israeli delegate welcomed the three-day meeting ending near here Friday as a step forward in itself because the Israeli side included members of the right-wing governing coalition.

"A year ago such a meeting would not have been possible between the Israeli right, opposed to the Oslo

accords, and Palestinians. Today they are here and supporting the peace process," said the delegate, who asked not to be named.

Although delegates from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party were absent, members of the Shas Ultra-Orthodox and Israel B'alya parties were present along with representatives from the Geshet (centre), Labour and Communist parties.

During a press conference in Vouliagmeni, near Athens, Maxim Levy, a Geshet Party deputy and brother of Foreign Minister

David Levy, said Israel "is in favour of the peace process. But we want peace to be accompanied by security."

Meanwhile, Anis Qaq, assistant deputy minister for coordination and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said the two sides could not agree a joint statement.

The Palestinians asked "for an Israeli commitment on the question of settlements, which the Israeli delegation rejected," Mr. Qaq said.

Israel fears a return of the suicide bombers — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli security officials fear Islamist militant Palestinian groups may be planning a new round of attacks in case the stalemate in the peace process is ended, press reports said Friday.

A security source told the Yedioth Aharonot daily the groups have been quiet for the past year because the peace process has been at death's door since the right-wing Israeli government took power.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, who are both fiercely opposed to the Oslo peace accords, launched a series of suicide bombings in 1994 and 1996 which helped push Israelis towards voting for the headline platform of Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

In particular the groups launched four attacks in February and March last year, just two months before general elections, that left 58 people dead.

Israeli officials say supporters of the two organisations have been lying low in recent months, and have not taken part in violent anti-Israeli protests and attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The sources told the paper Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement was largely responsible for the upsurge of violence against the four-month stalemate in the peace process.

Kuwait rapprochement moves attacked by MPs

KUWAIT (RI) — Kuwaiti parliamentarians have criticised the government for moving to improve ties with Arab states which appeared to back Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a Kuwait newspaper reported on Friday.

"The government should have taken its time until parliament ends debates on the matter," leading MP Nasser Sanea was quoted by Al Rai Aam newspaper as saying.

In recent days Kuwait has taken measures which appeared to be the start of a slow process to improve ties with Jordan, Sudan and Yemen.

Parliament last month held secret sessions to discuss the

government's plan to normalise ties with some Arab states which were soured by the Gulf crisis. Kuwait had downgraded ties and cut generous financial aid to several states which it accused of sympathising with Iraq during its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait.

Another MP, Badr Ge'an, told the daily the government's recent moves were a "surprise" and criticised their speed.

Jordan and Kuwait this week resumed direct air links for the first time since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of the tiny Gulf Arab state while a Sudanese minister made the first visit to Kuwait since the crisis.

Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh met in Sanaa this week with a team of Kuwaiti intellectuals, including two former ministers.

Yemen, a United Nations Security Council member at the time, and Cuba were the only two of the 15-nation Security Council to vote against a resolution which sanctioned the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq.

Days after the Iraqi invasion, Jordan, Sudan and Mauritania expressed reservations on an Arab League summit resolution which sanctioned the deployment of Arab troops in Saudi Arabia.

Yilmaz expected to put end to Islamist power in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz is to bring down the final curtain on Turkey's pro-Islamist government Saturday with a parliamentary confidence vote he is expected to win with ease.

As the Turkish military was bidding at the constitutional court to shut-down the pro-Islamist Welfare Party of ex-premier Necmettin Erbakan, Mr. Yilmaz was mustering his secular support for the rubber-stamp vote.

His secular coalition government can count on 281 votes in the 548-seat parliament, observers say.

Mr. Yilmaz staunchly secular cabinet, approved June 30 by President Suleyman Demirel, brings together members of his own Conservative Motherland Party (ANAP) and those of the Party of the Democratic Left (DSP) and the Party for a Democratic Turkey (DTP).

In Saturday's vote he will also get the backing of the 49-strong Social-Democratic People's Republican Party (CHP) and some 15 independent deputies, observers say.

That Mr. Yilmaz was able to put together a coalition at all marks a triumph for Turkey's generals, who accused the Welfare Party of

threatening the country's secular traditions.

Their four-month campaign to secure the June resignation had prompted widespread fears of a coup.

The trickle of deputies quitting the right-wing True Path Party, protesting its leader Tansu Ciller's alliance with the Islamists, became a flood as the military campaign gathered pace.

On Wednesday, even Ms. Ciller's close aide Hasan Peker defected to the Yilmaz camp and earlier Friday Demir Berberoglu became the 39th deputy to resign from True Path since the December 1995 general elections.

On Thursday, the Turkish military acted to crush the pro-Islamist Welfare Party, submitting evidence to the constitutional court containing information "linking Welfare with outlawed Islamist fundamentalist activities."

Mr. Yilmaz and his two deputy premiers, DSP leader Bulent Ecevit and DTP member Ismet Sezgin, have mapped out an ambitious programme aimed mainly at strengthening Turkey's secular and democratic foundations and cleaning up the state apparatus.

True Path deputy quits in extra boost to Yilmaz

ANKARA (RI) — A Turkish deputy resigned from Tansu Ciller's party on Friday, boosting Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's drive to bring down the Islamist Welfare Party.

Demir Berberoglu, head of the parliament's Human Rights Committee, quit the party after a long dispute over the party's alliance with the Islamist Welfare Party (DYP) and its leader Tansu Ciller.

"I am leaving the DYP and uniting with the secular and democratic forces of the country," he said in a statement.

Mr. Yilmaz, 54, has more than 200 deputies on his side in the 550-seat parliament. He has been urged to vote in the 550-seat assembly.

He has been urged to vote in the 550-seat assembly.

He has been urged to vote in the 550-seat assembly.

A key leftist party said 49 deputies pledged support for the left-right coalition at a debate on the government programme on Thursday.

Islamist ministers, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, resigned last month after a long battle with the secularist military over the constitution.

The 49 deputies, who are now in the parliament, are expected to vote in the year-end elections.

The 49 deputies, who are now in the parliament, are expected to vote in the year-end elections.

The 49 deputies, who are now in the parliament, are expected to vote in the year-end elections.

Iran shocked by kidnap, slayings of 11 women

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is reeling from a grisly series of murders of women in the Tehran area by a killer cabdriver who had illegally entered the country from Afghanistan.

Dubbed "The Urban Vampire" by the press, Abdullah Abdul Rahman allegedly kidnapped, raped and murdered at least 11 women and then burned their bodies to destroy the evidence, officials said.

The 28-year-old "woman hunter," who confessed to selecting a passenger a week as a victim, is expected to be convicted and executed shortly, officials said.

The killing spree around the Iranian capital has been critical of police "inactivity" and "inefficiency."

Iran News wrote Thursday that the parliament

Afghan refugees living in Iran.

In order to capture the serial killer, the police kept a large number of taxi drivers in the capital's hot spots under surveillance.

Abdul Rahman originally came here as a refugee and was arrested in 1993 for raping a young girl. He escaped from police while on the way to court, the Tehran police commander, General Yousef-Reza Abolfathi, said.

Abdul Rahman fled to Afghanistan but then illegally reentered Iran.

His alleged crimes are the number one topic of conversation in the country and the media in particular has been critical of police "inactivity" and "inefficiency."

Iran News wrote Thursday that the parliament

must come down hard on the interior ministry, which directs the police, to ensure its slackness is not repeated.

The government daily Iran said "hundreds of people are calling us every day to express their indignation."

Abdul Rahman's arrest has also cast a further shadow over the Afghan community here.

Iran is home to two million refugees, the highest number in the world, including Afghans, Bangladeshis and Iraqis, the interior ministry says.

The more than a million Afghan refugees in the country are already regularly accused of committing most of the crimes that are perpetrated in Iran.

New English language Lebanese daily out

BEIRUT (AP) — The Beirut Times, an English language daily focusing on business reporting, appeared on newsstands Friday, joining 13 other papers in Lebanon's crowded print media market.

Publisher Antoine Kehdy said his newspaper would introduce a "unique concept in Lebanon and in the region" by providing specialised information to its readers.

"We want to tell bankers about other bankers, managers about other managers, investors about products, merchants about trade and the media about (themselves)," he told a news conference Thursday.

Mr. Kehdy said Lebanon and the Middle East needed a "credible, English language business publication." He added that the need would increase "as regional markets expand and develop and as the hope for peace brings prosperity to the region."

The Beirut Times joins the English language daily Star and the French language L'Orient Le Jour as Beirut's only foreign-language newspapers. All other papers publish in Arabic.

Turkish musician released from jail

ISTANBUL (RI) — A leading Turkish musician and human rights activist accused of aiding Kurdish rebels said on Friday he had been released from prison pending the continuation of his trial.

Samir Yurdapan was charged with "aiding an illegal organisation" after being arrested at the end of April in possession of two fake passports prepared for repentant Kurdish guerrillas who later worked for the security forces.

Mr. Yurdapan, who faces up to seven years in jail, said he wanted the pair to help him uncover a security scandal over official links to crime gangs.

"I want to bring gangs within the state to light. I will keep working for it even if that means more arrests," he told a news conference in a run down area of Istanbul.

Mr. Yurdapan, a renowned popular music composer, said the two ex-rebels had received death threats after they made allegations in the media that officials used former PKK members in political killings.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
15:35 French Programmes
16:00 Neighbours
16:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Hangin With Mr. Cooper
20:00 Magazine Zero One
20:30 Prism
21:10 Time Trax
22:00 News in English
23:30 MacGyver
23:15 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:34 Sunrise/Duha
12:41 Dhuhur
16:22 Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 623541

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775291.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise slightly but remaining around average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.

Amman 18/31
Aqaba 24/35
Deserts 19/34
Jordan Valley 22/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29 Aqaba 37 Humidity:
readings: Amman 45 per cent,
Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mazen Nball 850435
Dr. Fakhri Bilbisi 852222
Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas 859135
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shair 91405
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 657055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 677641
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Muzen Abu Bakir 236852
IRBID:
Dr. Zahur Al Qadi 906495
Khalifeh pharmacy 835417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 633101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company

636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300
HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 642816
Akhleh Maternity, J. Ann 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Madhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 607071
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mosher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Astralish 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323

ZARQA National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital 09/990590
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:05 Damascus (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:25 Beirut (RJ)

10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:30 Sanaa (RJ)
10:45 Aden (RJ)
10:50 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:20 Colombo (RJ)
15:10 Istanbul (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Cairo (RJ)
19:10 London, Berlin (RJ)
02:30 Madrid (RJ)
Other Flights
03:00 Rome (AZ)
06:10 Jakarta (GA)
07:05 London, Damascus (BA)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
13:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 Doha (EK)
15:05 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Doha (EK)
16:30 Doha (QZ)
20:10 London (GA)
21:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:15 Cairo (MS)
23:25 Beirut (ME)
23:45 Amsterdam (KL)
02:15 London (BA)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
09:40 Istanbul (RJ)

12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago, Detroit (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
21:20 Bombay (RJ)
21:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
23:59 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
Other Flights
04:00 Rome (AZ)
04:00 Athens (OA)
06:50 Larnaca (CY)
07:00 Beirut (ME)
07:10 London (GA)
08:10 Damascus, London (BA)
14:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:50 Vienna (OS)
16:00 Doha (EK)
17:45 Dubai (EK)
17:50 Doha (QZ)
21:10 Jakarta (GA)
23:15 Cairo (MS)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
04:00 Athens (OA)



HRH Crown Prince Hassan expresses his appreciation to workers who contributed to the building of two tunnels at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman. Prince Hassan inaugurated the tunnels Thursday (photo by Boghos)

Crown Prince inaugurates tunnels at Third Circle

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Thursday inaugurated two tunnels at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman. The tunnels were constructed over a period of 135 days at the cost of JD 15 million.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, met with those engineers and workers who participated in the project and thanked them for their efforts.

The first (300 metre) tunnel connects the second circle with the fourth, while the second (400 metre) tunnel connects Ras Al Ain with the street leading to the Philadelphia Hotel.

According to Dr. Abbadi, the project is expected to reduce delays at the junction to a maximum of 18 seconds down from the previous 70. A survey conducted by the Amman Municipality revealed that nearly 70 per cent of the city's traffic passes through these points, he added.

Dr. Abbadi paid tribute to



HRH Crown Prince Hassan drives his car through a newly-constructed tunnel at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman (photo by Boghos)

the workers and detailed the project, which, he said, is one of the most important projects to facilitate traffic inside the city.

The municipality is currently

constructing a 180-metre tunnel connecting the Wadi Haddadeh district with downtown Amman, he stated.

This tunnel, estimated to cost JD 3 to JD 4 million, is

expected to be completed in November by an Italian-Jordanian consortium.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji also attended the ceremony.

Councils to study Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott 1997 general elections

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The executive councils of most political parties are scheduled to meet today to study the option of following the Muslim Brotherhood's Wednesday decision to boycott the 1997 general elections.

The Brotherhood's historic decision appears to have greatly impacted not only opposition parties, from leftists to Islamists, which are now discussing the possibility of a general boycott, but also centrist parties such as the pan-Arabist Al Mustaqbal, whose leader, Suleiman Arar, has confirmed that future electoral policy will be determined later today.

Of particular interest will be the outcome of deliberations by the Shura Council, (the higher guidance committee in Islamic organisations), of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the Brotherhood's political arm.

In a meeting to be held late this evening, the 120-member council is slated to decide whether to boycott the upcoming election or proceed with an election campaign benefit of the Muslim Brotherhood's support.

However, IAF Spokesperson

Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times that he doubts that a final decision will be taken today.

"I do not think there will be a final deliberation on Saturday," said Dr. Mansour, who Wednesday expressed disapproval of the Muslim Brotherhood's decision, stating that "the boycott is against the interest of the Jordanian people and the development of democratic life (in the Kingdom)."

"It will take a week or two before a final decision is made," he added.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the leaders of 11 opposition parties, including the IAF, has been scheduled for Monday by the head of the Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties, Salem Nahhas, "to study the Muslim Brotherhood's decision."

"What [is striking] about the (Brotherhood's) decision to boycott the elections is that it was very democratic and reflects the people's aspirations and feelings," Mr. Nahhas asserted.

"[The decision to boycott the elections] was not a leadership decision imposed from above, but [taken by] popular demand," he added.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that 63 per cent of the Muslim Brotherhood's Shura council,

(also known as the "Council of Thirty") members voted against participation in the 1997 elections, but observers say that the consensus to the boycott was much stronger in the Brotherhood's lower cadres.

When asked whether he believes that the 1997 elections will still be held this autumn, should a majority of parties decide in favour of a general boycott, Mr. Nahhas answered in the affirmative.

"Elections might be held regardless, even if only the National Constitutional Party (NCP) were to participate," he said.

The NCP, widely considered the government's party, has not scheduled any meeting to discuss the Brotherhood's decision, a party source said.

"It is their (the Brotherhood's) decision, and we do not see in which way it should affect our policies," the source maintained.

"[The NCP] electoral committee is working to prepare the election campaign and tickets, and we are going to participate (in the elections) as we have always said [we would]," he concluded.

Court acquits Abu Khajil

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Court of Appeals Wednesday acquitted former Sri Lankan Honorary Consul to Jordan Tawfiq Abu Khajil of charges ranging from infant trafficking to forgery of official documents.

Mr. Abu Khajil, 57, had been convicted by the Amman Criminal Court in April of selling one baby, attempting to sell a second, forgery and usage of forged documents.

But in its ruling Wednesday, the Court of Appeals, headed by Justice Abdul Rahman Banna with Justices Mohammad Othman and Mansour Hadidi, overturned that decision and acquitted Mr. Abu Khajil on all 86 charges.

"I expected this verdict and I am very happy," Defence Attorney Ahmad Tubeishat told the Jordan Times.

"From day 1-first studied the case file, I knew that my client had been framed and that all charges were baseless," he added. "However, I was waiting for the judiciary to prove it."

Mr. Abu Khajil was formally charged in March 1996 with 36 counts of forgery of official documents, usage of forged documents, 36 counts of infant trafficking (illegal under a 1929 law prohibiting slavery), possession of unlicensed firearms, import of illegal wireless devices, abuse of trust and forgery of a government seal.

He was arrested shortly after airport police stopped a Dutch couple on March 13, attempting to leave the country with a child they thought to have had adopted after paying a sum of \$8,000.

Forged documents concerning the supposed adoption were found on the couple's person.

In its ruling, the Court of Appeals stated that no proof existed that the former consul either bought or sold any child, "rather what happened was an adoption, authorised by Jordanian and Dutch law."

The court also lessened the forgery charge to a misdemeanour and maintained that Mr. Abu Khajil was not responsible for any usage of forged documents.

The former consul had originally received a 14-year imprisonment term with temporary hard labour, later amended to three years due to apparent poor health.

Mr. Abu Khajil, currently free on bail, still faces trial at the Criminal Court on charges of raping four Sri Lankan women.

However, last year, all four women changed their initial statements and are now facing charges of perjury.

Higher court revokes JPA ruling on editor

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice last week revoked a Jordan Press Association (JPA) decision, passed February 26, which stipulated the four-month suspension of Al Urdun weekly Editor-in-Chief Musa Keilani from his editorial position.

The JPA based its decision on an article which it described as violating professional ethics.

The decision was taken by majority vote. However, Chairman of the JPA Disciplinary Board Hassan Tal voiced his opposition to the decision.

Dr. Keilani then filed a case against the JPA.

In a session held July 8, the Higher Court of Justice revoked the JPA decision, which it described as "illegitimate," as Dr. Keilani was neither permitted to speak in his own defence nor summon witnesses to testify before the JPA disciplinary board.

The JPA took its decision after a journalist filed a complaint stating that Al Urdun newspaper defamed journalism by publishing a story entitled "A prostitute and a journalist," covering a prostitute who was arrested in Madaba.

Dr. Keilani stated that in cases in which lawyers had been accused of various offences or medical doctors had been charged with malpractice, they had not been accused of distorting their professions or offending their peers.

"Why should only journalists be accused of distorting the profession when they publish such articles?" Dr. Keilani asked. "Are journalists angels?"

He maintained that his newspaper did not violate nor infringe on the professional ethics of the press by publishing the article in question.

Jordan to participate in Palestinian business conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to participate in a Palestinian expatriate business conference in Palestine and will send an 80-member delegation there.

Chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad announced Friday.

The conference is scheduled for July 21-24 and is to convene in Gaza and Bethlehem, he added.

According to Mr. Murad, the meeting is to be organised by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Jordanian delegation will group leading businesspersons and economists.

Stating that the Jordanian private sector is eager to bolster ties with Palestinians, Mr. Murad confirmed that the Jordanian delegation will also group the chambers of commerce, trade unions, and other organisations.

Jordan is eager to further

bolster ties with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Palestinian institutions and people, Mr. Murad affirmed.

The Jordanian private sector has been favourably responding to His Majesty King Hussein's policies in this direction and in maintaining strong ties with Palestinians, he said.

We are ready to cooperate with our Palestinian brothers and offer them aid in constructing a strong economic infrastructure to benefit Palestinians, Jordanians and their common aspirations, Mr. Murad asserted.

The conference will be held under the patronage of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and offers a great opportunity to the Jordanian business community as well as representatives of the private sector to explore prospects for future cooperation in trade, economy and joint ventures, he concluded.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince to open conference

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan today inaugurates a three-day European Mediterranean Partnership Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. Prince Hassan will deliver the keynote address to the meeting, to be attended by nearly 1,000 businesspersons from 23 countries in Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Palestinian meeting to convene in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian Affairs Department Director General Ibrahim Tarshihi today leaves for Cairo at the head of a Jordanian delegation to meetings of Palestinian affairs supervisors. Participating in the conference will be representatives from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and the Arab League.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

* Lecture on the image of Westerner in the latest works of eight Arab writers by Dr. Mu'jib Al Zahran, at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh, at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Art works by Salam Kain entitled "From Jerusalem to Nabulus" at the Jordan River Designs showroom, Jabal Amman, until July 15 (Tel. 613081).

* Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al Zaghari at the Modern Educational School, Khaldia, until July 31.

* Photography exhibition by Jan Kassay, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until July 29.

* Fifth exhibition of Korean products at the Amman International Motor Show, until July 7.

* Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

* Silver Jewellery exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

* Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

* Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh, until July 24.

Arab women's conference ends on a determined note

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — That Arab women be possessed of a short and long-term political participation in the political sphere was the main recommendation of a four-day conference which concluded here Thursday.

The conference covered women's political participation in the Arab World and members therein debated the pros and cons of quotas for women residing in countries in the process of democratisation.

The conference attempted to answer two questions — the first related to women's political participation, especially in positions of decision-making, and how such might lead to an institutionalised democracy? The second question was related to the establishment of full democracy and how it might lead to women's enfranchisement in political life and therefore in the decision-making process.

Some of the participants argued that a women's quota at a stage in which the majority of the Arab World is not fully democratised would only increase the legitimacy of undemocratic regimes and make them seem more appealing.

Dalia Bizri, from Lebanon, stressed that a woman "appointed" as a result of a quota could only be a tool in the hands of any undemocratic regime where said government might bargain with the appointed women.

"In a worst-case scenario, the social and political line of an undemocratic regime would [be considered more] acceptable," Dr. Bizri added.

She maintained that any political participation without a parallel modification in an

undemocratic political regime cannot change widespread detrimental opinions regarding women's political participation.

Under current conditions, she said, and due to a rise in Islamic fundamentalism, women's full enfranchisement is a card played by both the Islamists, who, she said, still evidence confusion towards women political participation in spite of changes in their political discourse, and various governments which support women without any true conviction or meaningful action.

Other women who favoured a quota system for women stressed that women's participation in all spheres is the cornerstone of any democracy.

Participation in the political sphere is a major demand for all women's movements around the globe, they stated.

Naelah Rashdan, member of the Upper House of Parliament, voiced her support for a women's quota system in Jordan.

"As long as we have quotas for Circassians and Christians we should have a quota for women," she said, emphasising that Christian and Circassian women are able to reach Parliament through designated channels, while other women [do not benefit from such].

"The quota should be for all women," she stated.

Subsequent to a two-hour debate, the participants agreed on one major recommendation to be implemented as a short-term strategy or transitional stage for women whereas they will unify to implement quotas in the decision-making processes.

A long-term strategy would be to establish democratic regimes in all of the Arab World, participants added.

Helen Khoury, stated that due to undemocratic or partially democratic regimes in the Arab World, women's movements should create pressure groups to support women reach decision-making positions.

She described these changes as "from top to bottom" and added that a parallel level on which women should work is at the grassroots in order to establish democratic regimes. "We must change patriarchal and undemocratic societies in which women are marginalised and treated as second if not third class citizens," Ms. Khoury asserted.

Director General of the Social Science Programme for the Middle East Region at the Ford Foundation Salim Nasr told the Jordan Times, that laws and regulations regarding women's political participation should be changed even if people's perceptions have not yet followed suit.

These laws, he said, could help in developing people's ideas regarding women's participation in the decision-making process as well as changing the culture and overcoming certain social taboos. Pressure groups helping women run electoral campaigns should exist regardless of a particular woman candidate's ideology, according to Dr. Nasr.

"These pressure groups will help women candidates in conducting campaigns and crossing party lines as well as linking with groups operating in other countries," he said.

The proceedings of the conference, in which over 25 women participated from eight countries will be published in a book soon, Dr. Nasr concluded.

NATO swoop on war crime suspects stuns Bosnian Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — The sudden swoop on Bosnian Serb war crime suspects by British soldiers has shocked nationalist Serb leaders and signalled a tougher policy by NATO.

British special forces arrested one suspect and shot dead another Thursday in the first NATO operation against indicted war criminals since a Bosnian peace treaty was signed in 1995.

NATO said Simo Drijaca, a notorious Bosnian Serb police chief, was killed when he opened fire on soldiers trying to arrest him in the northwest Prijedor region.

Milan Kovacevic, a hospital director, was captured at work and flown to the Hague to face trial before the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal.

Both Mr. Kovacevic and Drijaca were wanted in connection with a genocidal campaign to deport Muslims and Croats. A Western official said they were both the subject of sealed indictments issued by the War Crimes Tribunal and were not officially aware they were liable to arrest.

The NATO action backed up tough rhetoric from the United States and its European allies amid increasing frustration with the slow-moving peace process in Bosnia.

"I think all those who are subject to indictment by the War Crimes Tribunal should be on notice that at some point in time they will be brought to justice," U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said.

Nationalist Bosnian Serb leaders appeared stunned by the news and their media accused NATO of "premeditated murder." But there was no violent backlash immediately after the action.

Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, looking shaken, called the operation "terrible" and told Serb television that it cast doubt on the viability of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

"We are totally surprised by this," she said.

Mrs. Plavsic said she had won promises from the United States that Drijaca's son and son-in-law, who were detained during the operation, would be released promptly.

A British soldier was wounded in the leg during the gun battle with Drijaca near a reservoir in Omarska.

Several British newspapers reported that the operation was carried out by members of the elite Special Air Services.

The Times said the crack troops were trained to operate with "extreme aggression" and Drijaca was cut down in a hail of fire as soon as he let off a round at the advancing soldiers.

Omarska, outside Prijedor, is associated with the war's most infamous detention camp, which Drijaca had told reporters was merely a harmless "transit centre."

NATO officers said "Operation Tango" did not mark a change in policy which had ruled out "manhunts" and

required soldiers to arrest suspects only if they encountered them during their regular duties.

Thursday's operation, however, broke new ground and raised expectations that the most prominent suspects, ex-President Radovan Karadzic and retired army commander Ratko Mladic, might be next.

Mr. Karadzic is one of 67 suspects on the tribunal's published list of indictees. He lives in the mountain village of Pale, outside Sarajevo, where he is guarded by heavily-armed police and continues to wield power behind the scenes.

Mr. Mladic, who keeps a low profile, was seen this week in the Yugoslav capital Belgrade where his family lives in an affluent suburb.

The British operation came amid a tense power struggle among Serb leaders, pitting Mrs. Plavsic against hardliners loyal to ex-President Karadzic.

NATO officers declined to say whether "Operation Tango" was over but said their troops in the 31,000-strong force were not placed on heightened alert.

There were indications that the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organisations had evacuated personnel from the Serb entity in Bosnia. International police monitors were staying put.

During the war, Serb forces abducted U.N. peacekeepers and used them as "human shields" to try to fend off NATO air strikes.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department warned Americans to be cautious if travelling in Serbia and Montenegro, saying the recent arrests of indicted war criminals in Croatia and Bosnia might spark tensions in former Yugoslavia.

"While these arrests have taken place outside of Serbia-Montenegro, the actions could result in heightened sensitivities among the local population, particularly on Serbia's borders with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia," the department said in a statement.

Russia Friday condemned the sudden swoop on Bosnian Serb war crime suspects by British soldiers, saying such "cowboy raids" threatened the Dayton peace process.

"Russia does not bear and does not intend to bear any responsibility for the consequences of such unilateral actions," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"One must underline that such 'cowboy raids' threaten the whole Dayton peace process, which is in any case going through a difficult period," said the Russian Foreign Ministry statement, a copy of which was faxed to Reuters.

The statement hinted Russia, whose troops form part of the international SFOR peacekeeping force in Bosnia, might review its participation, saying: "The Russian leadership will draw the corresponding conclusions from this."



Protesters set fire to tyres in the middle of a busy highway in Bombay Friday. Ten people were killed when police opened fire on a mob angered by the desecration of a statue of a prominent social activist (Reuters photo)

10 killed as Indian police fire on protesters

BOMBAY (R) — Indian police Friday opened fire on a stone-throwing crowd angry at the desecration of a statue, killing 10 people, hospital sources said Friday.

The crowd had been provoked by what they saw as the desecration of a statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar, a revered leader of the lower social classes, police said.

It had been garlanded with shoes, considered a grave insult.

Ambedkar, known as the father of India's constitution, is treated like a god by the lower social classes in India's rigid Hindu caste system.

"Eight people were already dead when they were brought in," a doctor at a Bombay hospital told Reuters. "Two more succumbed to their injuries." The dead included a 12-year-old girl.

Police said earlier that four people had died from bullet wounds. They were

unable to confirm the latest report.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said 11 people had died in police fire.

Police said they had rushed a large force of special riot police to the scene of the shooting, Ghatkopar, 15 kilometres from Bombay city centre, and the situation was tense but under control.

When police reached the scene at 6.30 a.m. (0100 GMT) a crowd of Ambedkar supporters who had already surrounded the statue began pelting them with stones, police said. They also torched two vehicles.

Police said they had closed the busy highway near the statue. They could not say who was responsible for the garland.

PTI said Manohar Joshi, chief minister of Maharashtra state, would make a statement on the incident later Friday.

kar supporters who had already surrounded the statue began pelting them with stones, police said. They also torched two vehicles.

Police said they had closed the busy highway near the statue. They could not say who was responsible for the garland.

PTI said Manohar Joshi, chief minister of Maharashtra state, would make a statement on the incident later Friday.

When police reached the scene at 6.30 a.m. (0100 GMT) a crowd of Ambedkar supporters who had already surrounded the statue began pelting them with stones, police said. They also torched two vehicles.

Police said they had closed the busy highway near the statue. They could not say who was responsible for the garland.

PTI said Manohar Joshi, chief minister of Maharashtra state, would make a statement on the incident later Friday.

Floods kill 22 in Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods caused by torrential rains have killed at least 22 people in southeastern Bangladesh, police and officials said Friday.

They said at least 30 people were injured, hundreds could be missing and tens of thousands were made homeless in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and the nearby hill districts.

Unofficial sources put the death toll at nearly 40, including nine on the Maheshkhali Island, where a landslide reportedly knocked down several homes.

"Most of the victims died in mudslides and a few were swept away by torrents of floodwater," one government official in Chittagong said.

"The death toll may go up as it is still raining heavily. Communications with many areas have been cut off," he said.

The flooding has hit areas of the country that were still recovering from a severe cyclone on May 19 that killed more than 100 people and injured thousands.

Major rivers in the south-east have burst their banks and rivers in other areas were rising fast, meteorology officials said Friday.

Unless the rain stops in the next 24 hours, much of the country would be inundated, one official said.

Two of the confirmed deaths were reported Thursday, of which one child died after being swept by floodwater in Cox's Bazar district and an 18-year-old male drowned while trying to get hold of a floating tree.

Of the 20 deaths reported Friday, 13 died in Rangamati town in Chittagong hill tracts, where tribal rebels have been fighting for autonomy for the past 23 years.

The victims perished under tonnes of mud sliding from the hills, which destroyed their houses," one local official told reporters.

Up to 50,000 people have been taken to flood shelters but at least half a million others were stranded in their half-submerged homes, officials said. Road links between Chittagong and neighbouring districts, including Cox's Bazar, have become impassable as floodwater washed away several small bridges and partly inundated highways.

Hands off Kashmir, Indian leader warns OIC

JAMMU (AFP) — The leader of India's main Hindu nationalist party here Friday warned the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) nations not to meddle in the disputed state of Kashmir.

Lal Krishna Advani, president of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), said the OIC and Western nations should stay clear of the Himalayan state and not back Pakistani attempts to fuel separatist violence.

"It is no longer a secret that Pakistan's inter-services intelligence, which wields extra-constitutional powers, is the father of the

tries since their independence in 1947.

Pakistan holds the non-Indian third of Kashmir and India the rest. A separatist campaign in Indian-administered Kashmir has left around 20,000 dead since 1989.

Mr. Advani said recent foreign secretary-level talks, during which Pakistan called for new talks on Kashmir, between the two countries had created a "sense of illusion" that tensions had eased.

"But this is not the case because Pakistan continues to provide moral and material assistance to rebels in Kashmir," he claimed.

India and Pakistan both claim the Muslim-majority territory, which has sparked two wars between the coun-

Pakistan premier expands cabinet

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expanded his four-month-old cabinet Friday, naming nine new ministers and four (deputy) ministers of state, but he seemed to be facing a rift with a potential rival.

The newcomers, who were sworn in by President Farooq Leghari, increase the cabinet to 16 full ministers and five ministers of state, plus two present advisers with minister status.

The new ministers include veteran and young loyalists of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which took power in February after winning a landslide election victory against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

A significant omission from the list was Ejaz-Ul-Haq, son of late military ruler General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, amid newspaper reports of possible differences with the prime minister and the potential of staking a claim to party leadership in the future.

Mr. Ejaz, a senior PML vice-president who was a high-profile minister for labour, manpower and overseas Pakistanis in Mr. Sharif's previous cabinet from 1990 to 1993, declined to join the present cabinet in a meeting with the prime minister Thursday, local newspapers said.

He has been unhappy since Mr. Sharif, a one-time protégé of Gen. Zia, omitted him from the first batch of ministers named on Feb. 26.

The new ministers include senate leader Raja Zafarul Haq, who was given the religious affairs and minorities portfolio, and Abdul Majid Malik, a retired lieutenant-general who was given the Kashmir affairs, northern areas, states and frontier regions portfolio.

Other ministers are Mohammad Yasin Wattoo (parliamentary affairs), Abdul Sattar Laleka (food and agriculture), Raja Nadi Pervez (water and power), Javed Hashemi (health), and Yaqub Khan Nasseer (railways).

The new ministers of state are Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju (foreign affairs), Tahmina Daultana (women's division, social welfare and special education), Halim Siddiqui (water and power) and Ahmad Mahmood (environment, local bodies and rural development).

Other ministers are Mohammad Yasin Wattoo (parliamentary affairs), Abdul Sattar Laleka (food and agriculture), Raja Nadi Pervez (water and power), Javed Hashemi (health), and Yaqub Khan Nasseer (railways).

The new ministers of state are Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju (foreign affairs), Tahmina Daultana (women's division, social welfare and special education), Halim Siddiqui (water and power) and Ahmad Mahmood (environment, local bodies and rural development).

Other ministers are Mohammad Yasin Wattoo (parliamentary affairs), Abdul Sattar Laleka (food and agriculture), Raja Nadi Pervez (water and power), Javed Hashemi (health), and Yaqub Khan Nasseer (railways).

The new ministers of state are Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju (foreign affairs), Tahmina Daultana (women's division, social welfare and special education), Halim Siddiqui (water and power) and Ahmad Mahmood (environment, local bodies and rural development).

Other ministers are Mohammad Yasin Wattoo (parliamentary affairs), Abdul Sattar Laleka (food and agriculture), Raja Nadi Pervez (water and power), Javed Hashemi (health), and Yaqub Khan Nasseer (railways).

Macau police detonate bomb planted under tour bus

MACAU (R) — Police in Portuguese-governed Macau Friday destroyed a bomb planted under a tour bus outside a hotel, authorities said.

Security guards at the New Century Hotel on Macau's Taipa Island called the police after finding the device under a bus outside, Macau police said.

Police bomb-disposal experts used robots to explode it and there was no damage. Police said there was no need to evacuate guests from the 600-room hotel as the bomb was found in a defective before it was removed and destroyed.

Hotel staff described the controlled explosion as

"something like a firecracker going off."

The planned bomb was meant to be a "warning," police said.

The China-funded hotel was recently taken over by a local consortium which planned to open a casino.

In another incident, police said staff at a go-karting complex on Coloane Island found a petrol bomb in a refrigerator and shards of glass littering the track.

"Maybe someone practised throwing Molotov cocktails here last night," a detective told Reuters.

Police said there have been "about three dozen" bomb explosions and threats since late 1995. Mostly using low-

power, home-made devices. The bombings have caused only minor injuries.

Recent reports from Macau have said rival gang wars — the 14K and the Soi Fong — are about to renew a gangland war.

A spate of killings and drive-by shootings has claimed at least 16 lives this year. The gangs are fighting over shares in illegal loan-sharking and protection rackets linked to the legal casino tourism business.

Macau's biggest industry. But police sources say the two gangs are believed to have forged a truce in May after realising that gang-

land-style killings were bad for business.

China floods claim 82 lives

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll from China's summer floods jumped to 82 Friday, as flood waters swept eastwards, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless and raising concerns of epidemics.

The southern provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi remained the worst hit, with Guangxi reporting 29 dead as rainstorms continued unabated, flooding 37 districts and cities and affected nearly six million people.

"The situation has worsened considerably in the past two days," said a Chinese Red Cross official in Nanning, the provincial capital of Guangxi.

"We have taken special measures to guard against the growing risk of epidemics," the official said, adding that more than 12,500 homes had been destroyed throughout the province.

In neighbouring Guangdong, where more than 540,000 homes have been destroyed or severely damaged, the death toll remained at 41, a spokesman for the Provincial Flood Control Bureau said.

A total of 3.26 million people have been affected by the floods in Guangdong, which have so far caused direct economic losses estimated at more than 1.8 billion yuan (\$217 million).

Some 12 cities have suffered from excessive flooding, with Qiongzhou — some 80 kilometres north of the provincial capital Guangzhou — the worst hit.

On Thursday, flooding in the eastern coastal province of Zhejiang where 12 people were reported to have died in raging torrents that left 430,000 stranded and damaged 80,000 houses.

"Rain is still falling and the situation is very complex at the moment," said an official at the Zhejiang Flood Control Headquarters. Torrential rain in Zhejiang has affected 5.14 million people and flooded 226,780 hectares (560,146 acres) of farmland in 31 counties and cities.

Dykes burst on all three of the province's major rivers and the ensuing flood waters stopped production at more than 7,100 industrial and mining enterprises. Losses were estimated at more than three billion yuan (\$361 million). The floods have even touched neighbouring Shanghai, where

some 70 houses were damaged and large areas of suburban farmland inundated. Since the rainy season started June 25, Shanghai had drained off 165 million cubic metres (5.75 billion cubic feet) of water. A government spokesman in nearby Jiangxi said the province was strengthening its anti-flood defences in expectation of being the next victim.

"The water levels in rivers and reservoirs are already dangerously high, and with the predictions of more rain, we are doing what we can to shore up the banks," the official said.

The authorities in all the affected provinces have already mobilised tens of thousands of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops to support the efforts of local residents and to help with emergency relief work.

China is wracked by floods during the summer rainy season every year. Some of the worst floods in recent memory hit eastern and southeastern China in 1996, killing more than 3,000 people and causing economic losses estimated at \$26.5 billion.

South Korean president's aide resigns over scandal

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's aide resigned Friday after a local newspaper reported that he had funnelled large sums of money from a businessman to Mr. Kim's son, a presidential spokesman said.

Joongang Ilbo newspaper reported Thursday that Kang Sang-II, Mr. Kim's secretary for personnel and finance affairs, delivered one billion won (\$1.1 million) to the president's second son, Kim Hyun-Chul, on behalf of a local contractor in June 1995.

The spokesman could not confirm if Mr. Kang was a go-between or the money was a kickback, but said Mr. Kang's resignation was accepted in view of controversy over the Joonggang Ilbo report.

The daily said the money — 500 million won in cash stashed in a box and the remainder as a bank cheque — was given to Mr.

Kim Hyun-Chul shortly after Mr. Kang introduced the businessman to him.

Joongang said its report was based on prosecution investigation records submitted to a criminal court trying Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul. Prosecution officials declined to confirm the report.

The younger Mr. Kim is standing trial for bribery and tax evasion. State prosecutors accused him of taking kickbacks totalling 3.22 billion won (\$3.6 million) and evading taxes of 1.48 billion.

Joongang said it had access to the court records, which also showed that Mr. Kang had informed Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul of presidential blue house personnel changes.

Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul's arrest last May dealt a serious blow to the credibility of his father, who has been reduced to a lame-duck ahead of presidential elec-

tions in December. The president is barred from seeking reelection by the constitution.

Opposition parties have alleged that Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul is also the "real power" behind a loan scandal involving the failed Hanbo Steel Co.

The steelmaker collapsed in January under massive loans, revealing sleazy alliances among politicians, bankers and businessmen.

Last month, the founder of Hanbo, key presidential aides, politicians and top bankers were jailed for their roles in the Hanbo scandal.

Prosecutors have cleared Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul of any wrongdoing in the Hanbo affair but have indicted him for accepting money in return for favours to businessmen in connection with cable television deals and a road-building contract.

U.S. Senate approves Tenet as CIA chief

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate voted late Thursday to approve President Bill Clinton's nomination of George Tenet as the nation's top spy master.

The voice vote came after the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier Thursday unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Tenet, currently deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator John Warner, a Virginia Republican who knew Mr. Tenet when Mr. Tenet was a senior staff member on the Senate Intelligence Committee, praised his professional abilities, character and judgment.

"I have confidence in him and I am confident that he will represent our country very well in this important post," Sen. Warner said in a statement before the vote.

Mr. Clinton tapped Mr. Tenet, 44, to become director of Central Intelligence Agency after Anthony Lake, the president's former national security adviser, withdrew his nomination in frustration over the confirmation process.

Mr. Tenet's nomination seemed likely to sail through the Senate intelligence panel, which had earlier confirmed him as deputy CIA director, until the Justice Department began investigating his failure to disclose his part-interest in stocks and real estate inherited from his father.

The Justice Department Wednesday removed that hurdle when it concluded a preliminary investigation into the matter and said it saw no need to appoint an independent counsel, paving the way for the Senate vote.

Mr. Tenet issued a statement moments after the vote, saying he was deeply honoured and vowing to "deliver intelligence that is clear, objective and does not pull punches."

workers pick through the rubble of Caracas in search of a better life. Venezuela res...

...with broken concrete and twisted steel, residents search for the rubble. The...

...each victim of an earthquake that devastated Caracas, killing at least 100 people...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...

...and many more injured. The earthquake struck the city on January 12, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. local time...



Rescue workers pick through the ruins of a collapsed six-story office building in the city of Cumana, about 410 kilometres east of Caracas in search of survivors. The building was destroyed after a powerful quake measuring 6.9 on the Richter Scale rocked Venezuela's Caribbean coast Wednesday (Reuter photo)

Venezuelan rescuers seek children in quake ruins

CARIACO (R) — Grappling with broken concrete and twisted steel, rescuers frantically dug holes through the rubble Thursday to reach victims of an earthquake that devastated eastern Venezuela, killing at least 59 people.

Firemen, working in rain for the second night, tried to pass a 50 feet (15 metres) oxygen hose to survivors buried by the quake that crushed children in their classrooms and left 322 wounded and 500 families homeless, according to official figures.

"We want to pass a pipe some four of five stories down and pump in oxygen," local Civil Defence Chief Francisco Espina said.

Two year-old infants and an 81-year old man were among the dead counted as workers continued to pull bodies from the collapsed six-

floor Seguros La Seguridad office block in Cumana.

A French citizen was among those killed, but no other foreign deaths were reported.

Seismological office Funvisis said gentle aftershocks were still being felt along the coast, registering 4.0 on the Richter Scale, although no further damage was reported.

In Cumana, fireman Manuel Santana said he had counted 23 dead but that about 26 people were still trapped under the office building. Some of those people might be alive.

"Hope is the last thing we will lose," he said.

Officials acknowledged the death toll could rise from the worst earthquake to hit Venezuela for 30 years.

Schools were razed by the quake, which measured 6.9 on the Richter Scale, trap-

ping or killing scores of high school students sitting end of term exams.

In the tiny nearby town of Caricao, 470 kilometres east of Caracas, firemen worked to free the bodies of children trapped under the ruined Raimundo Martinez Centeno High School.

Amid fallen bricks and scattered exercise books, the search continued for missing children after at least 34 bodies were recovered. For many, Thursday was to have been their last day of school before the summer holidays.

At least 27 pupils were rescued after a class escaped through an 18-inch (40 cm) gap in the crumbled stonework.

Mothers sobbed as President Rafael Caldera paid a brief visit to the area. "Our houses are ruined, our children dead," said one woman. Mr. Caldera, at St. Latin

America's eldest leader, declared three days of national mourning.

But with power, telephone and water supplies still cut, Caricao School Director Eliezer Sanchez denounced the government's relief efforts.

"They are focusing all their efforts on the school but the whole village is devastated,"

Mr. Sanchez said more than 200 houses had been destroyed, leaving the town's 13,000 survivors to sleep on plastic sheets in the debris-strewn streets or gather in small groups in the town stadium. Local authorities declared a curfew.

Along the small villages that lined the recently reopened 60 kilometres highway between Cumana and Caricao, survivors lit candles and spent the night sitting on plastic chairs in improvised shelters.

Northern Ireland's Orange Order cancels marches

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's Orange Order performed an about-turn on generations of stubborn opposition Friday and cancelled a series of contentious parades to avoid igniting further violent Catholic opposition.

The centuries-old organisation said in a statement its decision had been taken "for the greater good of the province" after the worst week of violence for decades.

It blamed the upheaval on its ideological foes, Sinn Fein, political wing of IRA guerrillas fighting British rule of the province and supported by the minority Catholic population.

But it called off flashpoint parades planned Saturday, the most cherished day in its calendar, in Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road, Armagh and Newry and rerouted another march in Londonderry to avoid igniting further anger.

Catholic groups had threatened to swamp Belfast and Londonderry with mass protest and political sources said security chiefs told leaders of the organisation it could not guarantee the safety of marchers.

The decision was a major concession to Catholic Irish Nationalists and was warmly welcomed by Britain and Ireland as a boost for their joint Northern Ireland peace process.

But it angered hardline members of the organisation who saw it as a surrender to Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army (IRA), who have fought British rule of Northern Ireland for more than a generation.

Joel Panon, leader of the far-right Spirit of Drumree group, told reporters: "It isn't a compromise. It's a capitulation."

He disputed predictions that the concession might persuade the IRA to call a new ceasefire, the price that Britain has demanded for its entry into Northern Ireland peace talks.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams quickly issued a statement welcoming a decision he had campaigned for years.

"I welcome these decisions and acknowledge their significance," he said. "I wish it had been made earlier."

It ended a standoff between the order and Catholic resi-

dent's associations who had threatened demonstrations to block the parades, which they regard as sectarian intimidation.

The parades are held on the "Glorious 12th" of July, which marks a 1690 victory by a Protestant king over an invading Catholic monarch. It is the organisation's most cherished day.

Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Mo Mowlam, said the decision would "be received with a great deal of relief and appreciation in Northern Ireland and beyond."

A spokesman for Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said: "It is a very positive gesture by the Orange Order. The government believes it deserves an equally positive response from Nationalists."

Jeffrey Donaldson, an Orange leader, said: "These decisions were decisions of local lodges. This is not something that was imposed on them. I must say they have my utmost admiration."

Police had voiced serious concern about the Lower Ormeau Road march, scene of violent confrontation in recent years.

The decision not to parade in the Belfast suburb was announced by the local Ballynareigh Orange Lodge at the Protestant end of the Lower Ormeau Road.

Outside the lodge a small but angry crowd gathered, plainly displeased at the decision. They jostled journalists, shouting obscenities and forcing them away from the lodge entrance.

The order, which wants to maintain the province's 300-year-old union with Britain, had come under intense pressure to cancel the parades after week-long violence caused by a march through a Catholic area in the town of Portadown last Sunday.

A radical IRA splinter group, the Irish National Liberation Army, had threatened to attack Orange Order members if they paraded along the Lower Ormeau Road.

U.N. envoy starts peace mission to Afghanistan

TEHRAN (AFP) — The U.N.'s special representative to Afghanistan, Norbert Holl, is on a peace mission to the north of the war-torn country where he has met with anti-Taliban opposition leaders, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

Mr. Holl, a German, met Thursday with former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Uzbek General Abdul Malik in the opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif, the agency said.

He also had talks with Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzi, "foreign minister" of the anti-Taliban alliance, who criticised the United Nations for not coming up with proposals to end the civil war.

Mr. Ghafoorzi told IRNA that Mr. Holl, chief of the U.N. special mission for Afghanistan, "came here after several months just to listen to the point of view of the united opposition."

Mr. Holl, speaking on Pakistan Television Wednesday, said the first step in a settlement would be a ceasefire, adding it was also "very important to consider exchange of the wounded and other prisoners" to move towards the "final target" of a broad-based government.

Gen. Malik, Mr. Rabbani and the Shiite Muslim Hezb-i-Wahdat faction form an anti-Taliban coalition.

The Taliban militia controls about two thirds of Afghanistan with 22 provinces in its possession against the

opposition's eight.

Shiite Muslim Iran supports the anti-Taliban forces and is fiercely opposed to the Sunni Muslim fundamentalist militia.

It has accused Pakistan of giving political and military support to the Taleban, with the backing of the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, a senior Pakistani official trying to mediate peace between the Afghan rivals said Wednesday his talks with Taleban leaders had marked a "step forward" in the process.

Ifkhar Murshid, who met with the Taleban militia's acting Foreign Minister Mullah Abdul Jalil in Kandahar in southwest Afghanistan, said he would travel to the northern city of Mazar-i-

Sharif in a couple of days.

"There is a step forward in that they (the Taleban) are willing to consider in a positive manner the proposed formation of a joint council" with the opposition to work towards a settlement. Mr. Murshid told AFP.

Meanwhile, the Islamic militia's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, demanded Wednesday the immediate release of all Taleban prisoners held in the north by the opposition, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

In a statement from Kandahar, Mr. Omar warned the opposition it would be responsible for the "consequences" if the prisoners were harmed, according to the Pakistan-based private information service.

AL-AHLI CAPITAL GUARANTEED INVESTMENT FUND

FUND MANAGEMENT

Managed & Administered
by
Union Bank of Switzerland
and
Jordan National Bank
Limassol - Cyprus

GUARANTEED

Guaranteed Capital in USD
after three years plus minimum
interest of 5% per annum



البنك الأهلي الأردني
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK

For Information & Inquiries
689271, 689163

TARGET RETURN

Upside potential of 7%
which represents
0.75% above
3 years U.S. Treasury bill
interest rate

We Open For You

The Door

Of Opportunity

Sheikh Tofaili — now 'as much in the cold as Mohtashemi is in Iran'

By Robert Fisk

BAALBEK, Lebanon — Nobody talked about The Split. Indeed, the Hizbollah in Beirut had carefully refrained from any comment on Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili's "Revolution of the Hungry" in Baalbek. Nothing was said about Tofaili's decision to dress the Baalbek town hall — the entire Ottoman-built serail — in a black funeral shroud, the material carefully labelled with the words "The Coffin of Lebanese Authority."

Not a word was passed about the young men dancing through the crowd and waving flat Arabic bread on wooden poles. Not a mutter about Sheikh Tofaili's call for civil disobedience, a tax strike by the poor of the Bekaa Valley against the "bloodsucking" Lebanese government.

For it would not do to have Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Hizbollah, criticising Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili, the former secretary general of the Hizbollah and one of the founders of the "Party of God." But The Split was what the people of Baalbek were talking about. July 4, along with some very volatile support for Sheikh Tofaili's campaign against poverty. One local businessman, attired in a white galibiya robe against the sun which burned down upon the Roman temples behind him, put it quite bluntly: "Tofaili wants to make his name again. It's a long time since he was a really important guy."

Long indeed, but not forgotten. For Sheikh Sobhi, bespectacled, turbaned and sporting some unexpected



Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili, the former head of Hizbollah, speaking during the Baalbek rally

grey hairs these days, represents the unreformed version of the Hizbollah — before the pro-Iranian party moved into democratic politics, became media-friendly and adopted the habits of Tehran's moderates. Back in the bad old days — or the good old days as Sheikh Sobhi would remember them — things were simpler. The Hizbollah was against America, France, Israel, the West, all manner of smaller Satans and, especially, Westerners rash enough to go on living in Lebanon. Terry Anderson, the longest-held American hostage, spent a small portion of his almost seven years' captivity locked up in Sheikh Sobhi's Beirut

office. If only Terry could have been with us in Baalbek on July 4. For there was the grand old man of Kidnapping Inc., playing the role of Mahatma Gandhi, promising a day of civil disobedience, appealing for God's curses to be heaped upon the Lebanese government, insisting his people's "march of hunger" would be unstoppable, that it would breach even "the gates of Beirut." Given the fact that scarcely 4,000 demonstrators turned up to support Sheikh Sobhi, this seemed over-ambitious. True, the people of the northern Bekaa have been ignored by the money-making administration in Beirut: in an effort to pre-

empt the good Sheikh, the government last week promised a £60 million development plan for the region — and true, the local hospitals and infrastructure have been allowed to rot since the civil war ended in 1990. But to hear Sheikh Sobhi demand financial assistance for the land-owners who have been forced to give up hashish-farming was a bit much. Already they are growing potatoes, and heavily subsidised ones to boot.

But the yellow Hizbollah banners — the shape of a Kalashnikov rifle belting to spell the word Allah (God) — fluttered above the crowd in front of the black-shrouded Baalbek

town hall, along with two tatty and slightly faded Iranian flags. And that, in a sense, said it all. For Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili was the ally of Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the Iranian founding father of the Hizbollah, former Iranian ambassador to Damascus, former interior minister in Tehran. But Tofaili is now as much in the cold as Mohtashemi is in Iran; the leadership of President Rafsanjani — and President-elect Khatami — has transformed the Hizbollah in Lebanon, its younger leadership concentrating on politics and resistance to Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon. Relevant though Sheikh Sobhi's words may have been to the poor of Baalbek, he remains a man of the past.

But if this is a split, it is not one in which the Hizbollah's enemies can take much comfort. The one thing which both Tofaili and Nasrallah in Beirut have in common is their determination to destroy Israel's occupation army in southern Lebanon, and the Hizbollah is increasing its assaults on the occupiers with ever more effective roadside bombs, rocket and mortar attacks. Why, on July 4 — along with demands for free hospitals, free education and dam construction — Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili was asking for Hizbollah guerrillas, along with their wounded, to be treated as if they were members of the Lebanese army. He wanted pensions for them. The Hizbollah as Dad's Army. It was quite a thought.

The Independent

Man's best friend may turn out to be his oldest as well

By Nicholas Wade

NEW YORK — Long before humans learned to sow wheat or build cities, when they were simple hunters struggling for existence in a dangerous world, they had a companion in adversity.

A new study, based on an analysis of genetic material, suggests that man's relationship with the dog may have begun far earlier than the generally accepted date of 14,000 years ago, and that the animal may first have become domesticated as far back as 135,000 years ago.

The study also reports that most present-day breeds of dog carry the genetic fingerprints of a single lineage of female wolf. Domestication was so rare an event, the authors suggest, it may have happened only a handful of times in human history.

By exploring the evolutionary record inscribed in the genetic material, the study has opened a new chapter in the history of the dog, one that reaches far beyond existing archaeological evidence. Dogs come in so many shapes and sizes that people have long wondered if other animals beside the wolf figured somewhere in the family tree, like the jackal or the coyote. "We shall probably never be able to determine their origin with certainty," Darwin lamented.

To resolve the lingering questions about the dog's ancestry, and to find the ancestral wolf population that gave rise to dogs, Carles Vila and Robert Wayne, evolutionary biologists at the University of California at Los Angeles, with scientists at other universities, collected DNA samples from coyotes, jackals and 67 breeds of dog, as well as from 27 wolf populations throughout Europe, Asia and North America. The team reported its findings in a recent issue of Science.

The family tree they

constructed from analysing a certain region of DNA showed that coyotes and jackals branch off right at the base of the tree with no subsequent intermingling. The wolf, as long suspected, is the only ancestor of the dog, they concluded.

More surprising was the wide genetic variation seen among the dogs, suggesting a far more ancient ancestry than supposed because of the slow pace at which genetic changes accumulate.

Within the wolf line, the scientists found, the dogs separate into four groups, suggesting that the wolf was domesticated on at most four separate occasions, or was maybe domesticated just once, with back-crossing between dogs and wolves occurring on three later occasions.

The first and largest of these groups includes the four breeds of dog considered to be the most ancient — the dingo, the New Guinea singing dog, the African basenji and the greyhound — as well as representatives of many other breeds.

The large group contained no genetic fingerprint that could be matched to modern wolf populations. Since the ancestral wolf population has vanished, the researchers were unable to pinpoint where the main domestication occurred.

The UCLA team was surprised to find that several breeds of dogs, including German shepherds and golden retrievers, possessed more than one of the archetypal genetic fingerprints that emerged from the analysis. Mr. Vila explained the finding by saying that dogs probably were mating freely for thousands of years before selective breeding began.

"The breeders were selecting from a big pool of mutts, picking individuals from a well mixed genetic pool," he said.

The oldest known discovery of a dog, from a

Palaeolithic grave at Oberkassel in Germany, is a jaw about 14,000 years old. So why isn't there earlier evidence for dogs in the archaeological record? The bones of wolves have been found in human settlements up to 400,000 years old, but archaeologists regard these as tamed wolves, not dogs.

The UCLA scientists suggest that the first domesticated dogs resembled wolves in physical form for thousands of years and did not acquire a dog-like appearance until humans started to lead a settled existence some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, and imposed a different way of life on their canine associates.

But that proposal seems unlikely to James Serpell, an animal behaviourist at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I find it hard to imagine that a domesticated animal would not diverge in appearance almost immediately," he said, suggesting instead that dogs might first have been domesticated in some part of the world, like Southeast Asia, where little archaeology has been done.

The UCLA team analysed a particular stretch of DNA that comes not from the chromosomes but from structures inside the cell known as mitochondria.

Mitochondrial DNA changes comparatively quickly, which makes it a good tool for separating recent genetic lineages from one another. But the rate of change is not always constant, making it an erratic kind of clock. "All of us who reconstruct the history of species are really impressed with mitochondrial DNA's power but are cautious about interpreting it," said Stephen O'Brien, an expert on population genetics at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland.

New York Times

Summer's here, and the French government says 'smile'

By Catherine Marciano
Agence France-Presse

PARIS — With the summer tourist season coming into full swing, the French government is again reminding its citizens to do what your mother always told you to do with houseguests — smile and be polite.

Though France remains one of the world's top tourist destinations, foreign visitors still find the French arrogant, chauvinistic, inhospitable and unresponsive to foreign languages and generally ornery. In other words, they could do better.

So for the fourth year running, the government stepped in this week, the official start of the big summer holidays, to remind its citizens to be helpful, accommodating and, at the very least, say hello.

The campaign, called "bonjour," is directed primarily at people working in the tourist industry. So far, it has had more luck in softening that legendary Gallic obstreperousness — that another official campaign

— the one to get Parisians to curb their dogs.

That one failed so miserably it was finally dropped, meaning French sidewalks are still hazardous. But 20,000 participants have actually joined the "bonjour" programme so far. This involves signing a "welcome contract" pledging to smile, pay attention to cleanliness, limit a client's waiting time, cheerfully and efficiently answer telephone requests and generally help foreign visitors get around.

Signatories get to display a small sign on their shop of business bearing the "bonjour" logo, a testament to their commitment to courtesy.

"If professionals set the tone, the rest of the country will catch on," said Michelle Demessine, France's top tourist official, for whom what really is at stake in all this is jobs. A friendlier France will "consolidate and develop employment," she said.

In 1996, France kept its place as the world's top

tourist destination with 61.5 million foreign visitors. But it has failed to increase this number, which has stagnated for five years.

Studies indicate that visitors might be coming in droves but for short-term stays, meaning France's share in the market for long stays — the money-makers — is declining.

Last year, France only came in third for tourism receipts, with \$4.7 billion, behind the United States in first place with \$10.8 billion and Spain in second with \$4.8 billion.

This "stagnation" cannot wholly be blamed on the French character, analysts say. A spate of terrorist attacks in recent years, damaging strikes, lingering resentment over France's now-finished nuclear testing programme in the south Pacific and unpredictable summer weather, such as the cold rain that has battered much of the country straight through this week, have helped.

The government initially

planned a huge campaign with lots of fanfare and posters to get the "bonjour" message across — until critics questioned whether such a public airing of personality flaws might discourage potential visitors.

So the campaign was toned down. A key feature is an "in-house" guide for professionals to help them "know their foreign tourists".

It is chock-full of practical tips, from a lexicon of useful words in six languages to conversion charts and a list of foreign school vacation periods.

But the real bonus are the 30 or so nationality pages that give tips on different cultures, their customs and how they perceive the French.

It says Americans, for instance, like rectangular pillows (not the square French ones), have loud voices, hate organ meats and think the French are cultivated but a bit suspicious.

The British cannot abide frog legs, tend to be phleg-

matic though polite, love French food though are known for eating the cheese after dessert, and find the French a bit too chatty and disorganised — unlike Italians who, the guide says, find the French well organised and want their "kids treated like kings".

Australians like big beds, big meals, love the French and want Kleenex in their rooms, while Swedes are shy, rarely shake hands, like (wide) twin beds, the French countryside and Disneyland Paris.

The Japanese appreciate French elegance, savoir-vivre and Paris shopping but are superstitious and like order. Never look a Japanese directly in the eye, never raise your voice to them and remember, they hate meals in sauce.

The other handy item on each page is a phonetic translation of simple words reminding professionals, for example, to say "sank you ver much" to Anglophones, before you wish them "goud baile."

Circus on tightrope but Russian kids still love it

IVANOVO, Russia (R) — She flies through the air with the greatest of ease, but little Sveta, the 11-year-old baby of the Marchenko Troupe, must work on her act if she is to make a career in the hard-up Russian circus.

Sveta wants to perform on the trapeze when she outgrows her lacy pink froutrou and, more importantly, gets too heavy for the elder Marchenkos to bounce her high into the air on the soles of their feet in their act's finale.

Lyudmila Marchenko, who runs the troupe with her husband Oleg, says Sveta has been encouraged to learn a whole range of other disciplines during three years on the road.

"These days there are a lot of artists competing for jobs and there's not much money in Russian circus. You have to be adaptable," Lyudmila said backstage after a performance

in Ivanovo, a depressed industrial city northeast of Moscow.

The theatre is one of dozens of purpose-built big tops scattered around Russia by Soviet leaders anxious to distract a circus-loving nation from the dreariness of everyday life.

Backstage it swarms with a menagerie of bears, tigers, horses, chickens, a llama and much else. A juggler calmly practises in a corner as the clowns, puffing fiercely on their cigarettes, work out new moves on their routine.

Out front, the band raucously accompanies every act, the spotlight picks out a slender girl turning somersaults on the high wire and several hundred youngsters, sticky buns and ice cream in hand, are having the time of their lives.

It is a sign of the times, however, that Sveta has spent half her brief career abroad, where the skills of the Rus-

sian circus draw in much bigger-money crowds than the 500 or so people who paid \$2 each for the midweek show in Ivanovo.

"We played to 80 full houses in Paris last year. Here people just don't have the money," grumbled Yuri, pausing to thump one of his agitated performing bears.

"Sometimes I wonder why we bother performing at all here. But we're a state troupe. We have to work. And at least the animals get to eat."

Alexei Yudin, director of the Ivanovo Circus, one of 43 owned by the government's Rosgostsirkh (Russian state circus) Corporation, says the hardest part is keeping up the crumbling structure.

"It's hard to keep up the building when we have to keep prices down because the city economy is doing badly," Ivanovo, once home to the Soviet textile industry, has one of the highest unemploy-

ment rates in the country.

"People don't have the money to spend on fun," Yudin said. "It's a great shame. The circus is the best place to have fun."

Those people who do still manage to come, seem to agree.

"This is the best culture Russia has," said Alla Kuzmina, treating grandchildren Viktoria, 6, and Pavel, 7, to distinctly unwholesome looking candy concoctions in the interval.

She remembers coming to the romantic old wooden circus as a child and now brings the youngsters to see every touring show in town — meaning a trip to the circus every month or two.

"It's much better than television," reckoned Ashot Sokhikyan, whose wide-eyed four-year-old daughter Zina is an avid fan of the animal acts and the clowns.

"People forget what it's like

but here they remember what it means to have atmosphere," said clown Adam, with an earnest maturity belying his 18 years and the fact he makes a living walking round with a live chicken on his head.

Few Western children would expect to see the circus more than once or twice a year, but Rosgostsirkh ensures that its 10,000-odd state-employed artists are constantly touring its venues in Russia as well as starring in shows abroad.

"We change the show all the time. The idea is to get people to come to the circus every month," Yudin said.

Non-afficionados might carp that one tightrope walker or juggler is much like another. But the real draw tends to be the animals. "Last month it was sea lions," Yudin said. "This month, it's tigers. They're generally the main attraction."

Jordan Times,
Tel. 699634, 684311

Our client, a leading consumer product manufacturing company, market leader in its field of business laundry and home care products, is seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual to join its marketing department.

MARKETING MANAGER

JOB Profile
The Marketing Manager has the responsibility for the overall operational and tactical objectives. He/She is responsible for preparing and updating the marketing plan, to develop the organization's local and export policies and procedures and to ensure the complete achievement of the sales objectives as well as the QUALITY standards related to clients, products and product development.

PERSONAL Profile
The Applicant has:
• a relevant university degree
• a post-qualifying education in sales and marketing
• professional expertise in modern marketing practices, preferably in consumer products
• at least 5 years experience in sales and marketing management (preferable internationally)

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

JOB Profile
The QA Manager has the task to monitor and supervise the implementation of a TQM program, to prepare the organization for an ISO 9002 assessment and to take care of Quality Check Points being established all over the organization, leading to the HACCP. Supplier assessment falls part of the responsibility. The QA Manager will have to work out the organization's QUALITY policies and secure the implementation.

PERSONAL Profile
The Ideal Applicant has:
• a relevant university degree in food technology
• a post-qualifying education in the Total Quality Management philosophy
• at least 3 years work knowledge of the ISO 9000 system's structure
• background and experience in the food industry
• highly intelligent

LOGISTICS MANAGER

JOB Profile
The Logistics Manager has to secure the production process to fully supplied with all raw materials, and to achieve this in a cost effective manner. To secure supplies and to maintain adequate stock/inventory levels. Furthermore to work out a manual for the logistic system "Just In Time" and to implement it, and to contract raw materials and services at prices that represent the best value to our client in the long term.

PERSONAL Profile
The Ideal Applicant has:
• a relevant theoretical and practical background in inventory control management
• experience in functional procurement
• abilities in verbal and written communication
• practical negotiation skills
• work knowledge of the "Just In Time" system

COMMON Profiles

All positions demand computer skills and communication abilities in Arabic and English.

ATTRACTIVE CONDITIONS

Our client offers the successful applicants an exciting and challenging job in a company with an international culture. Salary and incentive packages in accordance with the positions' demands and the successful Applicants' qualifications.

Written application indicating the desired position to:

Human Resources Division,

CONCEPT for Consultancy, P.O. Box 851 568, Amman 11185

All applications will be dealt with in strict confidence. Our client will only be informed about the application upon agreement between the applicant and our HR Division.



EU envoy sees time ripe to upgrade Jordan's economy to world standards

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan must upgrade its economy to international standards in order to bear fruit from its partnership agreement with the European Union (EU), according to the Head of the Delegation of the European Communities in Jordan, Yves Gazzo.

"If you want to upgrade the economy to international standards this is the right time to do it," Mr. Gazzo said Wednesday.

In a lecture organised by the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), Mr. Gazzo reviewed the Jordan-EU relationship and the partnership agreement both sides initiated on the sidelines of April's Euro-Mediterranean conference in Malta.

Mr. Gazzo ruled out that Spain's recent blocking of the Jordan-EU partnership agreement would affect its signing.

"I'm sure we will find a solution soon," he affirmed.

Earlier this month Spain vetoed the partnership agreement in protest against the size of Jordan's tomato paste quota saying it was too large.

Mr. Gazzo said the EU started to support Jordan since both sides signed the protocol of cooperation in 1978 by lending the Kingdom ECU 250 million for infrastructure, water and waste

water treatment projects.

He said the EU has also adopted the MEDA programme which allocated a budget of European Currency Units (ECUs) 4.6 billion (\$5.8 million) in grants for the Mediterranean countries for the year 1996-1999.

The MEDA programme provides assistance for economic reforms in eligible countries and encourages better regional and cross-border cooperation.

Mr. Gazzo recalled that the EU and Jordan last year signed a financial agreement under which the EU allocated ECU 100 million (\$128 million) in support of the Kingdom's balance of payments.

A tranche of 60 million ECU has already been dispersed, and the second tranche is expected to be released soon, said Mr. Gazzo.

The EU will also grant Jordan ECU 7 million in support of the Kingdom's efforts to modernise the economy Mr. Gazzo added.

"The objective is to encourage Jordanian exports to European markets," he said.

Mr. Gazzo said the Medpartariat conference, which will open Saturday, will enhance the economic cooperation between Jordan and the EU.

He added that the meeting will also encourage the establishment of joint Jordanian-European ventures and thus facilitate access to EU markets.

Euro-Mediterranean conference opens today

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives from about 350 European and 150 Jordanian companies will Saturday gather at the Euro-Mediterranean conference to try to enhance economic cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean region and the EU.

The three-day conference, which is organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO) in cooperation with the EU, will be geared towards setting up joint Jordanian-European ventures and creating a suitable environment for growth of small and medium-size enterprises.

Jordanian officials earlier said the conference, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will help SMEs to cope with competition worldwide.

The meeting, to be attended by representatives from 22 Israeli companies, will tackle the Euro-Mediterranean partnership aimed at creating a free trade area by the year 2010.

Participants will also highlight investment and export opportunities in Jordan as well as incentives brought about by the new set of economic legislation in the country.

A Jordanian official earlier said the meeting will encourage technology transfer from Europe to Jordan, adding that it will also set the ground for an increase in trade exchange between the two sides.

The official hoped that Saturday's meeting will narrow the deficit in the balance of trade between Jordan and Europe.

"The average of our imports from Europe is \$800 million annually. The average of our annual exports is only \$100 million," he said.

The conference will be the fourth event of the Medpartariat after similar gatherings were held in Turkey, Morocco and Israel.

The European Commission has contributed ECU 466,666 to assist JEDCCO in preparing for the major economic gathering, according to a statement by the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan.

The statement said the European Commissioner Christos Papoutis arrived in Amman Friday on a four-day official visit in which he will address the inaugural ceremony.

Syria needs to revamp economy — study

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A Syrian government study has called for basic changes in the national economy if the country is to meet the conditions of economic partnership with the European Union (EU).

The study published in the

official Tishrin newspaper advised an overhaul of Syria's "institutional, investment and industrial structure" and warned that the local manufacturing industry would be the biggest loser in a Euro-Med free trade zone because of its

"poor quality." In Barcelona in 1995, 15 EU states and 12 countries around the Mediterranean committed themselves to the creation of a free trade zone by 2010 and to forging new security and political ties. The study said that Syria

would also have to reform its economy to meet the criteria of the new World Trade Organisation established by GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Joint EU-Syrian committees have already begun talks to reduce customs and duties gradually by a target date of 2010.

But Syria was one of the Arab states that argued strongly during a follow-up meeting in Malta in April that a collapse of the Middle East peace process will scupper attempts to construct long-term economic ties between Europe and the Mediterranean.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.7688	0.9331	0.6324	0.7741	113.65	1.3700	1715.20	1.3608	5.9730
DE Mark	0.9654	1.0000	0.6324	0.7741	113.65	1.3700	1715.20	1.3608	5.9730
GB Sterling	1.5849	2.5975	1.0000	1.2822	160.33	2.3220	2905.05	3.3732	16.1207
CH Franc	0.6849	1.2109	0.4036	1.0000	77.37	0.8381	1174.32	136.40	4.0885
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5550	0.5185	1.2822	1.0000	1.2044	15.09	175.02	5.2519
CA Dollar	0.7298	1.2758	0.4310	1.0682	1.20	1.0000	1243.27	143.73	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0294	0.3432	0.8550	1512.63	0.7975	1.0000	11.59	3.4776
NL Guilder	0.5023	0.8863	0.2961	0.7328	57.85	0.5877	861.56	1.0000	2.9887
FR Franc	0.1674	0.2960	0.0987	0.24210	19.00	0.2283	33.32	33.3200	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	ILP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7500	0.3770	3.6400	0.3023	3.6725	1534.50	3.3875
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2086	0.5325	5.1412	0.4268	5.1871	2167.37	4.7846
GB Sterling	0.2667	0.1858	0.7005	0.07	0.0806	0.06	0.0620	2.5933	0.9033
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8790	9.9489	1.0000	9.88	8.8017	9.74	4070.29	8.9544
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0000	1.00	0.8030	1.01	421.57	0.9304
Kuwait Dinar	3.3065	2.3424	12.0089	1.2473	12.04	1.00	12.15	5076.82	6.8306
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0027	0.9912	0.8823	1.00	417.84	0.9324
Lebanese 1000	0.65	0.4614	2.4438	0.2457	2.3721	0.1970	2.3833	1.0000	2.2078
Egyptian	0.2852	0.2090	1.1070	0.1113	1.0745	0.0882	1.0841	452.99	1.0000

Energy									
Oil	Last	Previous	Mid-East Currencies						
Brent	18.49	18.57	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	
WTI	18.34	18.10	SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4717	0.15738	0.38944	30.3334	
Bonny	18.49	18.57	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48157	0.1607	0.38764	30.3732	
Dubai	18.65	18.80	KW Dinar	3.3065	5.85138	1.95274	4.30992	376.384	
UL Gas	179.00	178.00	BH Dinar	0.3770	4.88263	1.58544	3.87447	301.76	
			CY Pound	1.325	3.4049	1.1349	2.8093	218.776	

Metal Prices									
Metal	Bid	Offer	Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Gold (oz's)	319.5	320	Period	1	3	6	9	12	
Silver (oz's)	4.38	4.4	Currency	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Year
Platinum (oz's)	404	408	USD	5.68	5.55	5.71	5.77	5.85	
AL (3 Months)	1562	1569	GBP	6.68	6.53	6.72	7.22	7.37	
CU (3 Months)	2272	2273	JPY	0.58	0.55	0.68	0.74	0.78	
Zinc (3 Months)	1475	1477	DEM	3.00	3.03	3.09	3.11	3.16	
Lead (3 Months)	667	668	FRF	3.22	3.27	3.34	3.38	3.43	
Ni (3 Months)	6870	6890	CHF	1.35	1.38	1.38	1.21	1.25	
			ITL	8.88	8.83	8.68	6.55	6.40	

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls			
New York	DOW JONES	7919.1	32.34	0.41	7821.14	7887.21	7886.78		
New York	S&P 500	915.79	2.01	0.22	918.80	913.11	913.79		
London	FT-SE 100	4797.4	29.0	0.02	4800.1	4785.5	4787.8		
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	19875.49	120.71	0.61	19892.0	19842.0	19754.8		
Paris	CAC 40	2940.47	11.38	0.39	2944.46	2928.38	2929.09		
Frankfurt	DAX	4040.97	48.59	1.22	4050.41	4017.36	3992.38		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery	JOD Cross Rates						
Coffee (lb/ton)	179.17	Spot	Currency	Buy	Sell				
Cocoa (lb/ton)	1622	Spot	US Dollar	0.700	0.710				
Sugar (lb/ton)	324	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1828	1.1988				
Wheat (lb/ton)	147.5	Spot	DE Mark	0.401	0.403				
Soya (lb/ton)	21.84	Spot	CH Franc	0.4844	0.4888				
Tea (lb/ton)	128	Spot	FR Franc	0.1188	0.1194				
Barley (lb/ton)	480	Spot	JP Yen	0.5281	0.5312				
			NL Guilder	0.3562	0.358				
			IT Lira	0.411	0.4131				

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST DIFFICULT TO DEFINE.

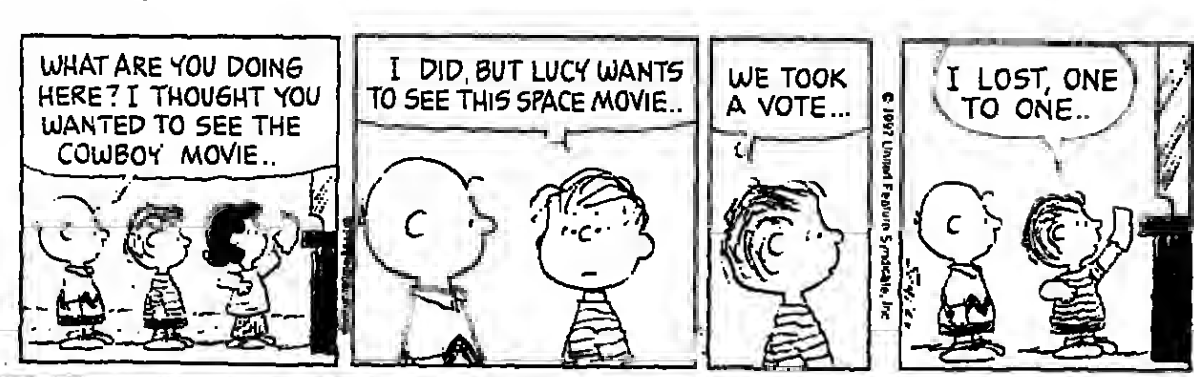
Feel The Power

But to fully appreciate its splendor, you really should see it in person.

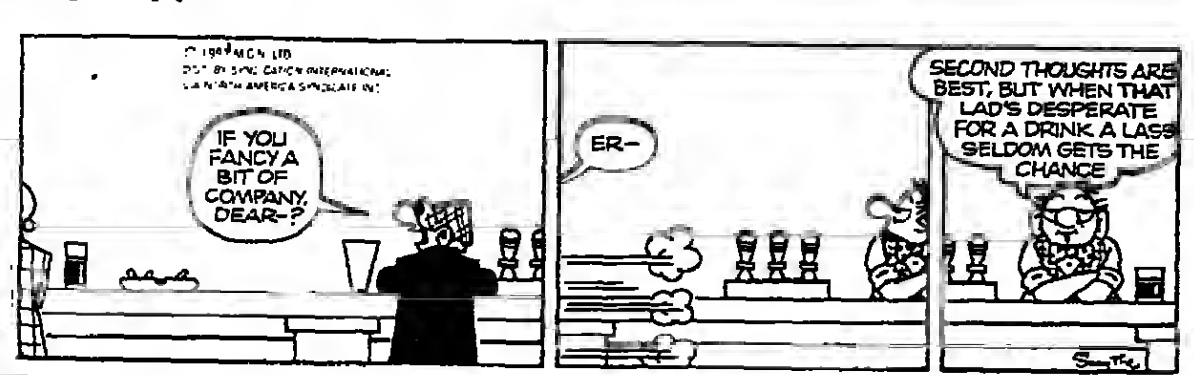
At Amra Forum Hotel Shops, Amman. Phone: 5527118

DAJANI
A Precious World
Of Gold And Gems.

Peanuts



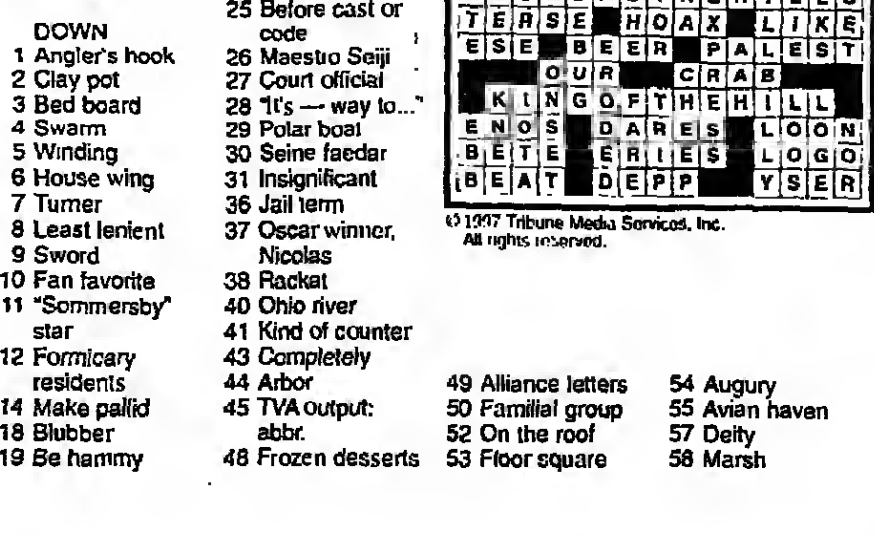
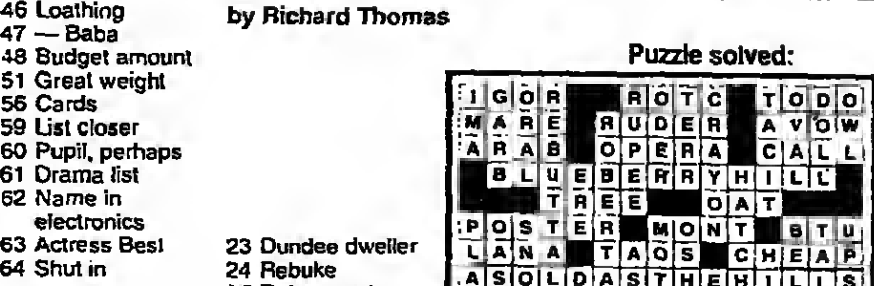
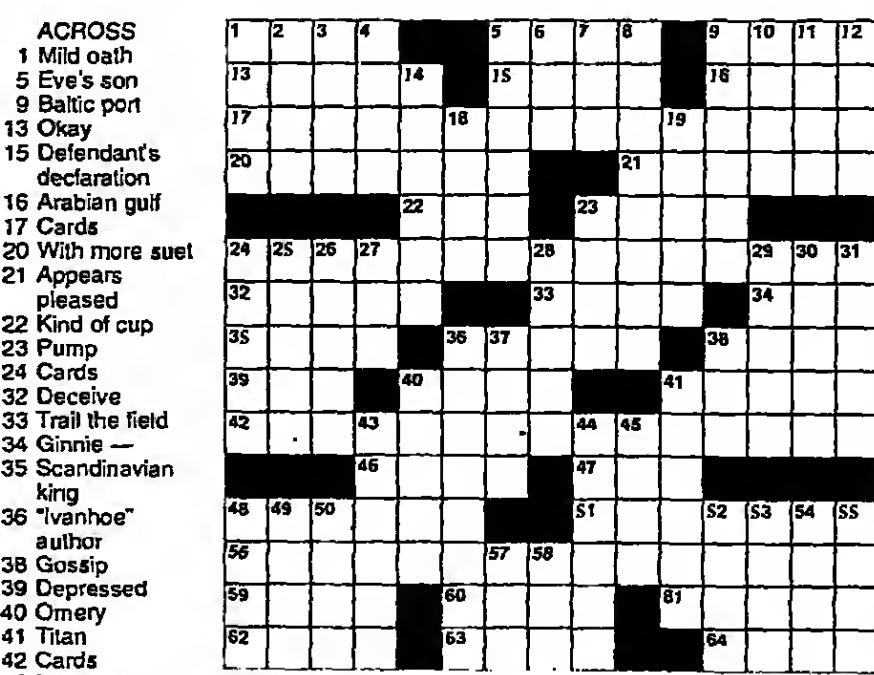
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword



HOROSCOPE FORE CAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1997

By Thomas S. Pieroni
Astrologer
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't get involved in a half-brained scheme today orchestrated by a new acquaintance. You should not allow anyone to make you lose your temper so that you will need to achieve your composure for the days ahead. **TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You should not make any radical changes today until you have analysed every aspect and determined what are the likely consequences. Public matters should be handled during the evening so that you can achieve success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) It is very important that you keep a promise you have made today, even though it seems rather boring. Be patient with your mate later this evening so that there won't be any difficulties with him or her.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you allow a fellow associate to get you dander up today you will be in a bad mood all day. Be sure to obey all regulations which apply to you and thereby you won't get into a difficult situation with a bigwig.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may be tempted to start a disagreement at your career activities, however doing so would ruin your reputation. Pay particular attention to the state of your health, thereby you can continue to proceed with your duties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Postpone an entertainment today as you have many more important things to take care of in the days ahead. Go along with the wishes of you make and do whatever he or she desires which can maintain harmony.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Avoid being sarcastic to a fellow business associate this morning, since you may need his or her advice at a later time. Get together with close friends later this evening, however, be sure to drive with the utmost care.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Think twice, then three times today before spending a lot of money on those things which are not absolutely necessary. This would be a good evening to entertain a group of close friends as the perfect host.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be certain of the facts and figures for a new project before you follow the advice of an expert. Enjoy a favourite hobby with a close friend this evening and thereby everyone can enjoy the recreational activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You should not allow a secret worry to prevent you from keeping a promise you have made. If your property needs repairs, make them at this time thereby you will have a place which is comfortable and beautiful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A new acquaintance could waste much of your valuable time today if you allow it. Go out on the town with your close friends and have a wonderful time together in each others company.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This might be a good time today to do some sightseeing with your mate, however, be sure to take care of all your business responsibilities first. Later this evening you can meet with knowledgeable people for advice.

Birthstone of July: Pearl
— Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Firm rebuilding Beirut to allow foreign ownership

BEIRUT (AP) — A major Lebanese company, partly owned by the prime minister, has decided to allow foreign financial institutions and non-Arabs to buy its shares, newspapers reported Friday.

Solidere, the company that is reconstructing war-devastated downtown Beirut, will hold a shareholders meeting in October to formally vote on the decision, announced Thursday, the reports said.

The decision is expected to pass easily. So far, ownership in Solidere was restricted to Lebanese citizens, other Arab nationals and fully Lebanese owned companies.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a billionaire businessman, owns 15 per cent of the shares worth \$150 million and is the single-largest stock owner in the company.

The Beirut Times said foreign financial institutions had been pushing for lifting the restrictions since Solidere's

global depositary receipts were listed in London in November, trading at a substantial premium compared to the company's shares traded on the Beirut Stock Exchange.

However, the Daily Star said lifting the restrictions may violate Lebanese laws, which bar foreign ownership of land.

The government created the \$1 billion company in 1994 as a public shareholding to attract investment to rebuild downtown Beirut, once a major battlefield during the 1975-90 civil war. It either purchased the land outright from owners or gave them share options in return.

Local investment banks welcomed Thursday's decision.

"The company is giving the right message to foreign investors ... and we need as much foreign investment as we can get," Antony Terzis, a senior Lebanon Invest Bank official, was quoted as saying by the Times.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Central Bank negotiating sale of its equity in the Housing Bank

HAVING OBTAINED the approval of the Council of Ministers to sell the stake that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) holds in the Housing Bank, negotiations are currently under way between the CBJ on the one hand and both of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) on the other hand to have the two entities, or any of them, buy the CBJ shares.

CBJ Governor Ziad Fariz said that the mechanism for selling the 750,000 shares has not been decided yet, but he indicated that the decision to sell the stake follows the transformation of the Housing Bank into a commercial bank. It is unlikely, however, that foreign investors can buy the CBJ shares before the government cancels the 50 per cent ownership ceiling on foreign investment in the banking sector. Foreign investors have about 50 per cent stake in the bank at present.

The Housing Bank share is worth JD5 at the stock market and the proceeds from the sales of all the shares owned by the CBJ according to this price will be about JD3.75 million. Those proceeds will not be transferred to the "Generation Fund" that was announced recently as the shares belong to the CBJ and not the Ministry of Finance, Minister Suleiman

Hafez said.

Meanwhile, demand for shares by non-Jordanians wanting to subscribe in the doubling of the Housing Bank capital has reached 28 million shares, three million shares higher than the volume on offer. As such, and in order to meet the demand for the extra three million shares, the best solution is to sell part of the 4.5 million shares that the government holds in the Housing Bank.

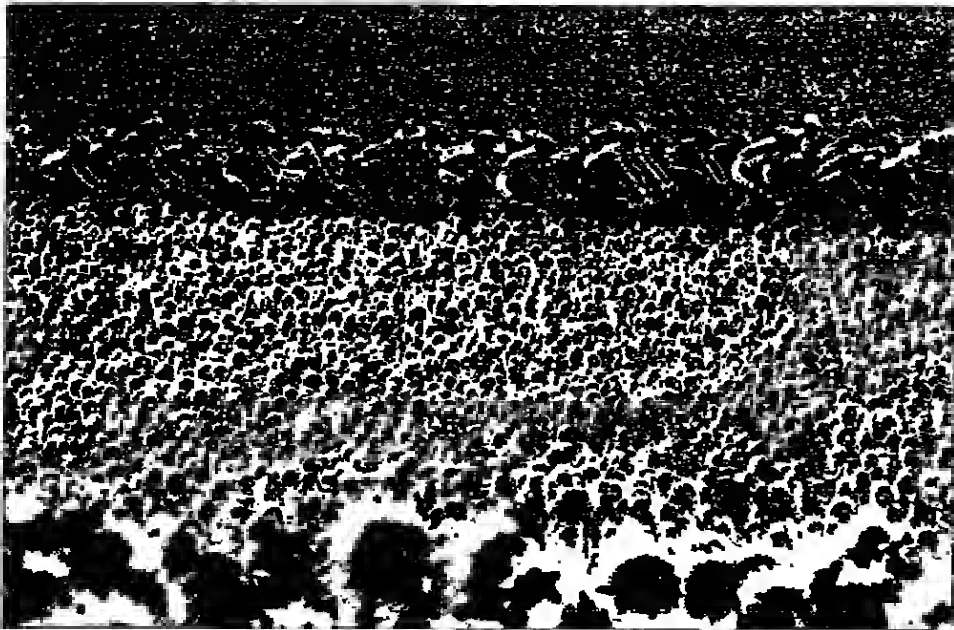
According to banking sources, the Arab Libyan Bank subscribed by JD7.5 million, Sheikh Khaled Bin Mahfouz from Saudi Arabia subscribed by another JD7.5 million whereas the Kuwaiti Real Estate Group took equity worth JD8.5 million. The Kuwaiti group reportedly doubled its stake to maintain its share at 27.5 per cent of the bank's capital. By attracting these shareholders as well as other investors from the Gulf region, the Housing Bank was able to bring the equivalent of \$198 million in new money to the Kingdom.

Before doubling the capital of the Housing Bank Jordanians held 36.785 per cent of the capital, other Arabs held 53.7 per cent and foreigners 9.515 per cent (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

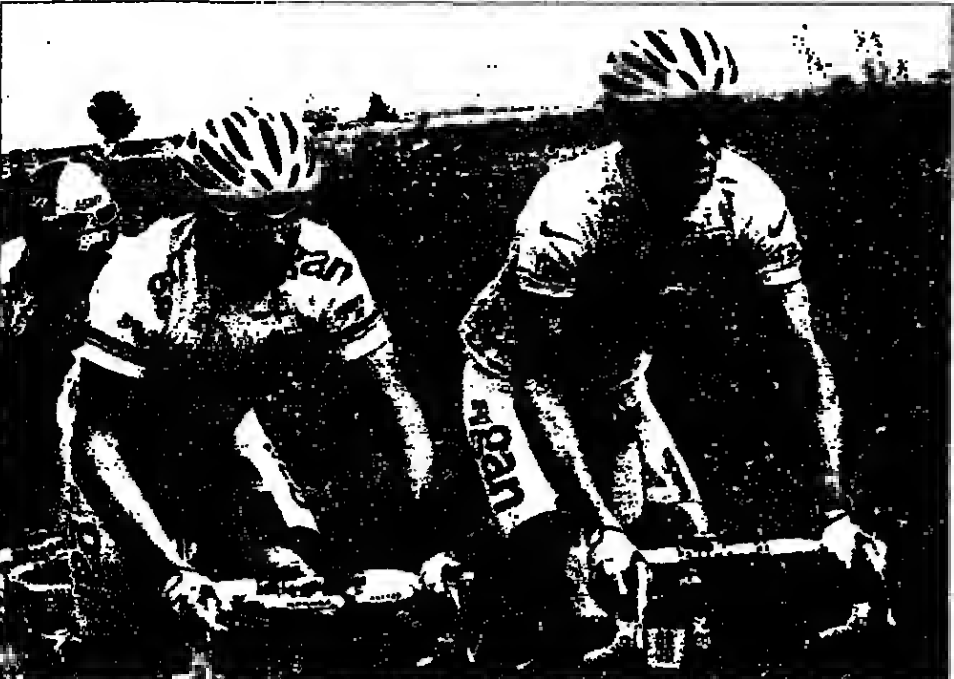
AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET



DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS																
COMPANY NAME	P/E	Q/Y	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	MARKET SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS			
264.500	252.000	ARAB BANK	12.4	1.40	82	2840	756595	263.50	270.00	262.00	270.00	+6.50	264.523	.065	5	
2.150	2.010	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	135	86050	178115	2.10	2.10	2.05	2.05	-.05	2.070	.205	5	
5.720	5.450	KING ABUHAN BANK	12.0	2.59	9	4400	25275	5.70	5.80	5.70	5.80	+0.10	5.744	.044	2	
5.540	5.120	BANK OF JORDAN	6.8	8.00	12	50518	164193	3.30	3.28	3.25	3.25	-.05	3.250	.481	3	
1.980	1.930	KED. EAST INV. BK.	61.1	0.00	1	100	93	1.94	1.93	.93	.93	-.01	.930	.001	1	
2.280	2.230	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.3	7.58	13	15050	33804	2.26	2.28	2.23	2.23	-.03	2.246	.128	3	
8.100	4.870	THE HOUSING BK.	14.6	2.96	14	2771	13660	5.00	4.85	4.90	4.90	-0.10	4.920	.011	3	
4.180	2.860	JOR. TRADING BANK	10.1	0.00	98	44977	126759	3.25	3.20	2.85	2.89	-.40	2.041	.450	4	
8.70	8.40	JOR. GULF BANK	5.1	8.14	22	38000	39785	.87	.88	.85	.86	-.01	.863	.190	5	
3.720	2.500	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	2.16	107	52497	199283	2.78	2.87	2.74	2.80	+0.02	2.782	.861	5	
1.250	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	101.7	0.00	6	9008	3026	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.16	-.02	1.164	.024	2	
2.380	2.100	JOR. TRV. FID. BANK	19.9	0.00	9	2028	4277	2.12	2.13	2.08	2.10	-.03	2.095	.020	3	
2.130	2.060	BEIR. AL-KAL (BRIQA)	-	7	13.16	15	5550	6355	1.16	1.13	1.14	1.14	-.02	1.145	.278	3
2.080	1.020	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	20	8217	8402	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	-.01	1.023	.082	3	
INDEX NUMBER : 202.52																
CHANGE : +1.184																
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS																
HIGH LOW																
2.800	2.800	JORDAN INSURANCE	11.6	5.54	2	11400	30780	2.80	2.70	2.70	2.70	-0.10	2.700	.228	1	
3.230	3.330	KHEDR EAST INSHR.	18.7	9.17	1	50000	175000	3.30	3.50	3.50	3.50	+0.20	3.500	.273	1	
6.000	5.900	TEHRANIAN INSHR.	10.4	5.12	1	100	290	5.85	5.90	5.90	5.90	0.00	5.900	.009	1	
1.700	2.640	JOR. FRANCH INSHR.	4.6	12.20	14	3996	6631	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	-.02	1.659	.102	5	
1.850	1.850	TAHMOUZ INSHR.	10.2	7.72	1	150	291	1.85	1.84	1.84	1.84	0.00	1.840	.015	1	
2.200	1.940	ARAB LIFE INSHR.	8.2	4.74	1	100	210	2.20	2.10	2.10	2.10	-0.10	2.100	.005	1	
3.650	1.990	JORDAN GULF INSHR.	15.5	2.16	8	1750	2942	2.21	2.44	2.21	2.32	-.11	2.264	.154	3	
2.150	1.480	ARAB INV. TRST. INSHR.	8.7	4.59	1	2000	6360	2.10	2.18	2.18	2.18	0.00	2.180	.250	1	
INDEX NUMBER : 112.82																
CHANGE : -1.187																
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS																
HIGH LOW																
1.650	1.650	JOR. HOTEL. RESTR.	7.9	6.10	55	20767	34386	1.47	1.67	1.64	1.64	-.09	1.454	.128	5	
8.000	8.000	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.38	3	3780	30240	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	0.00	8.000	.076	1	
1.380	1.250	EMAL REALTY	8.2	8.23	6	450	2280	1.28	1.29	1.38	1.38	0.10	1.282	.055	2	
2.450	2.550	KHEDR MINERALS	12.4	6.37	1	250	613	2.55	2.45	2.45	2.45	-0.10	2.452	.215	1	
8.500	5.000	ARAB INTL. PETROL.	35.6	4.00	3	202	1000	5.20	5.00	5.00	5.00	-.20	4.950	.002	2	
2.620	2.600	SEPIRING LINES	15.5	4.89	20	34893	97254	2.41	2.64	2.40	2.46	+0.05	2.436	.532	4	
1.150	1.500	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	274	303527	982234	1.24	1.42	1.24	1.42	-.08	1.392	.071	5	
1.870	1.840	RUAL ESTATE INV.	12.1	6.50	6	2400	2078	.87	.87	.85	.87	0.00	.866	.051	2	
1.520	1.490	JORDAN INV. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	5	2950	1493	.50	.52	.50	.52	-.02	.506	.087	3	
1.410	1.230	KED. EAST INVEST.	18.6	0.00	8	9250	11295	1.25	1.27	1.20	1.21	-.04	1.221	.181	2	
3.020	2.830	ARAB INTL. TRV. INSHR.	7.7	8.00	20	8387	24594	2.91	2.94	2.92	2.93	-.02	2.932	.083	4	
1.930	1.490	KARMA EDUCATION	-	0.00	17	5450	5259	.94	.94	.92	.93	-.01	.921	.124	3	
1.720	1.650	UNIFIED CO.	8.0	6.55	10	5600	9445	1.71	1.70	1.67	1.68	-.03	1.697	.112	3	
1.710	1.480	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	5	450	204	.48	.48	.47	.47	-.01	.474	.009	3	
INDEX NUMBER : 107.53																
CHANGE : -1.051																
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS																
HIGH LOW																
4.010	4.010	JOR. PROMPT FACT.	27.3	2.71	178	37846	1544798	4.07	4.10	4.04	4.04	-.01	4.078	.427	5	
6.400	2.200	JOR. CHEMICAL INSHR.	11.4	2.44	27	101680	415525	4.00	4.18	4.00	4.10	+0.10	4.047	.233	5	
6.750	6.600	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.5	3.01	6	4000	26575	4.65	4.65	4.60	4.65	0.00	4.644	.085	1	
9.928	9.500	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.04	48	4977	48026	9.75	9.70	9.75	9.81	+0.06	9.811	.076	5	
5.000	1.880	INDUSTRIAL COOP. INSHR.	-	0.00	13	2990	5412	1.88	1.88	1.77	1.77	-0.11	1.810	.060	4	
6.500	6.300	JOR. MOUNTED HILLS	9.7	3.33	2	950	1522	6.30	6.15	6.00	6.00	-0.30	6.092	.006	2	
4.010	5.000	ARAB PETROL. INSHR.	10.9	5.05	145	34780	139138	4.01	4.10	3.92	3.94	-.05	4.001	.986	5	
6.800	6.350	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	6.7	3.06	1	50	327	4.55	4.54	4.54	4.54	0.00	4.540	.002	1	
2.340	2.320	JORDAN DAIRY	8.1	10.19	2	200	474	2.34	2.40	2.34	2.40	+0.06	2.380	.011	1	
1.600	1.370	JOR. PIPES MANUFCT.	14.6	5.97	5	1100	1484	1.37	1.35	1.34	1.34	-.03	1.349	.094	3	
7.050	6.890	ARAB CHRM. INSHR.	37.9	5.15	3	300	1843	6.80	6.44	5.83	5.83	-.97	6.143	.045	3	
1.130	1.130	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	2	12100	13048	1.13	1.08	1.08	1.08	-.05	1.080	.120	2	
8.650	5.380	DAR ALADNA DR. INV.	13.0	4.72	15	6222	36765	5.45	5.45	5.30	5.30	-.15	5.311	.115	4	
2.930	9.710	ARAB ALABA. IND.	5.7	10.25	34	10250	26031	2.71	2.70	2.43	2.44	-.27	2.560	.171	4	
1.490	1.460	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	60	47250	91832	.46	.47	.46	.46	0.00	.462	.142	5	
1.850	1.030	ARAB PAPER CONVT. TRD.	20.4	0.00	13	8550	8495	1.04	1.02	1.00	1.00	-.04	1.007	.142	5	
2.030	1.980	NATIONAL PETRO. INSHR.	-	0.00	2	500	480	.98	.94	.94	.96	-.02	.940	.012	1	
1.550	1.550	NATIONAL PETRO. INSHR.	-	0.00	16	14950	8654	.52	.52	.51	.52	0.00	.514	.201	5	
1.430	1.570	INTERNED. PETRO. CHRM.	-	0.00	151	123357	45191	.58	.57	.51	.52	-.06	.528	.084	5	
1.420	1.560	JOR. ROCKWELL INSHR.	-	0.00	6	4350	2480	.57	.57	.57	.57	0.00	.578	.145	2	
1.800	2.800	INTV. CHRM. INSHR.	15.4	5.85	1	150	127	1.80	1.71	1.71	1.71	-.09	1.713	.101	1	
2.650	2.500	KARL. CABLE WTR. INSHR.	40.1	0.00	5	4000	10000	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	2.500	.080	5	
1.450	1.550	JOR. SUPPLY-CHRM	17.4	0.00	35	17180	9497	.57	.58	.54	.55	-.04	.553	.382	5	
1.410	1.370	ARAB FIDELITY CHRM.	10.4	5.15	35	11700	14094	1.41	1.41	1.32	1.36	-.05	1.276	.134	5	
3.010	2.010	KARLIER INVEST.	84.7	0.00	5	650	577	1.01	.96	.84	.86	-.15	.880	.923	5	
2.390	2.200	INTV. INSHR. RESOURCES	448.1	.39	77	46350	59116	1.27	1.27	1.17	1.18	-.09	1.191	.927	5	
2.240	2.090	JOR. INSHR. RESOURCES	16.5	9.26	34	12050	13110	1.10	1.10	1.08	1.08	-.02	1.089	.151	5	
1.450	2.450	KARL. CHRM. INSHR.	13.5	4.90	15	9592	14487	1.48	1.58	1.43	1.43	-.05	1.510	.133	4	
1.820	1.820	JOR. INSHR. CHRM. CO.	15.2	0.00	65	32018	26190	.86	.84	.81	.83	-.03	.818	.000	5	
2.530	1.420	KED. AL-KAL (BRIQA)	61.0	0.00	10	1237	1801	.97	.97	.97	.97	0.00	.970	.001	1	
1.150	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.1	0.00	51	56400	62908	1.10	1.12	1.09	1.12	+0.02	1.105	.564	5	
1.90	1.870	UNION CH. & VEG.	39.8	0.00	13	14650	12752	.87	.88	.87	.87	0.00	.870	.326	4	
INDEX NUMBER : 127.49																
CHANGE : +0.219																
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS																
HIGH LOW																
400	400	JOR. CENTRAL OIL STORAGE	-	0.00	10	4500	1594	.37	.39	.37	.39	+0.02	.376	.136	3	
500	440	JOR. TRAD. INC.	11.5	0.00	36	57500	25366	.46	.46	.43	.43	-.03	.441	.136	5	
628	478	ARAB FID. INVEST.	-	0.00	96	107349	49477	.48	.48	.45	.46	-.02	.461	.107	5	
500	460	UNION INV. 501	-	0.00	42	150500	27090	.67	.48	.60	.68	+0.01	.480	.684	5	
200	1.810	KARA FOR INVESTMENT	67.1	0.00	26	205150	237471	1.11	1.15	1.07	1.15	+0.04	1.138	.921	4	
650	610	AL-DAMRIYAR 759	60.5	0.00	17	405500	10728	.63	.64	.62	.63	-.01	.576	.088	5	
500	720	AL-SUMAM INV. 751	97.6	0.00	28	120403	69112	.78	.78	.78	.78	0.00	.780	.134	5	
570	540	ARAB FID. & MND.	0.00	0.00	29	21695	11349	.54	.53	.51	.53	-.02	.512	.620	3	
600	490	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	18	12750	4961	.40	.60	.38	.99	-.01	.389	.255	4	
268	220	JOR. INSHR. TRAD. INSHR.	-	0.00	55	84000	23100	.25	.29	.26	.28	+0.03	.275	.494	5	
500	460	KARL. VEG. INSHR.	-	0.00	2	1300	587	.44	.47	.45	.47	+0.01	.459	.059	2	
600	510	UNION OIL & PETROL.	-	0.00	1	750	35	.46	.46	.45	.45	-.01	.450	.079	2	
640	420	KIDNEY PHARM. 754	-	0.00	16	6731	2557	.62	.62	.61	.63	-.01	.645	.071	5	
500	470	JORDAN STEEL	39.3	4.47	46	50491	9496	.76	.76	.74	.75	+0.01	.748	.228	5	
500	480	ARAB ELECT. INSHR.	-	0.00	4	3972	1406	.50	.50	.50	.50	0.00	.500	.056	2	
500	890	UNION TOBACCO 754	-	0.00	20	5293	3504	.8								



Riders of the Tour de France pass through a field of sunflowers during the 215.5km sixth stage of the cycling race between Le Blanc and Marennes, July 11. France's Cedric Vasseur is the current yellow-jersey holder (Reuters photo)



France's yellow jersey holder Cedric Vasseur (R) leads the pack with his Australian teammate Stuart O'Grady (L) during the 215.5km sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Le Blanc and Marennes, July 11 (Reuters photo)

China sets sixth world weightlifting record

BEIJING (R) — China set its sixth world record in three days when Chen Xiaomin snatched 107.5 kg in the women's 64 kg division at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, the Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

Chen smashed the previous world snatch record of 106 kg set by China's Li Hongyun in May last year and won all three categories in the division on Thursday, Xinhua said.

After breaking the record, the 20-year-old Chen lifted 127.5 kg in the clean and jerk to total 235 kg, it said.

Chinese weightlifters have set six world records in the first three days of the championships in China's southeastern city of Yangzhou, it said.

China's Yang Xia set two world records on Wednesday when she snatched 93.5 kg and totalled 207.5 kg in the women's 54 kg division while Liu Xihua set a clean and jerk world record for the women's 54 kg class with a lift of 115.5 kg.

Earlier, China's Wan Jianhui broke the snatch world record, snatching 163 kg at his third attempt, and won all three gold medals in the men's 70 kg category.

China's Xing Fen broke the clean and jerk world mark with a lift of 105.5 kg in the women's 46 kg division on Tuesday.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Germans offer cash to medallists

BONN (R) — German competitors bidding for gold at next year's winter Olympics will have the extra incentive of a 30,000 mark (\$17,000) cash bonus, the German Sports Federation (DSB) said on Thursday. Athletes who clinch a silver medal at the games, to be held in Nagano in Japan, will receive 20,000 marks (\$11,300). Bronze medallists will get 15,000 marks (\$8,500) from the Institute of German Sport Aid. Armin Baunert, a DSB director, said between 130 and 150 athletes would make up the German team at the Olympics which take place next February.

Pierce doubtful for Fed Cup semi

NICE, France (R) — France's top women's player Mary Pierce is doubtful for the Fed Cup world group semifinal tie against Belgium this weekend. Pierce, ranked ninth in the world, is suffering the same pains in her arm which troubled her at Wimbledon. "We're following Mary's development on a daily basis," French team captain Yannick Noah said on Thursday. A final decision will be made shortly before the draw. Noah gave his team an even chance of beating the Belgians, who sprang a surprise with a 5-0 rout of Spain in the first round in March. "Between the two teams I think it's 50-50. And that's not just a way of handling the pressure to say that. I really think it will be a balanced match," said Noah, also France's Davis Cup men's team captain.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 699634, 684311

8th Pan-Arab Games open tonight

Organisers refuse Jordan's protest of basketball draw

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 8th Pan-Arab Games open in Beirut Saturday evening with athletes from 19 countries taking part in the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

Only Somalia and the Comoros Islands will not be taking part and the organising committee Friday announced that Iraqi athletes would miss the Games in light of a threat from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the biggest sponsors of the event, to boycott the Games if Iraq took part (see story on page 1).

Jordan's soccer, basketball, athletics, fencing, boxing, and weightlifting teams in addition to medical and press officials left Amman Friday to take part in the opening ceremony and then start their respective competitions.

The rest of the delegation will leave later on, with each team arriving in Beirut one day prior to its event and leaving following the end of their respective competitions in order to cut down on cost of participation.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation in the two-week long event includes 94 men and 33 women athletes competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and the entry form now includes participation in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

As the countdown began for the competition, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) received a negative response from Lebanese officials to a protest letter demanding a repeat of the basketball draw which was held Monday.

Officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw and an oral one would not be accepted now.

According to competition rules, if 9 teams are taking part they should be divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

However, Lebanese officials divided the competing teams into two groups



The logo of the 8th Pan-Arab Games



The official mascot

in clear violation of the competition regulations.

The JBF had said they would reconsider their participation in both the men's and women's events, however, the head of the Kingdom's delegation Sari Hamdan said Jordan would not pull out of any event since that is no longer the affair of respective federations but a decision that rested with the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) and the Ministry of Youth.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Prior to his departure to Lebanon, Jordan's Minister of Youth and Sports Qassem Abu Ein said athletes winning gold medals would receive JD500, silver medals JD300, and bronze medals JD200.

Team sports will receive JD3000, JD2000 and JD1000 respectively.

The minimum criteria for participation as set by the JOC's technical committee includes attaining at least a halfway standing in addition to passing a mandatory medical test in order to rule out any possible injury.

The Games will include random drug-testing for the first time in the event's history and reports said 300 samples would be taken during the two-week long Games in which 3000 athletes will be competing.

Random samples will be taken daily from athletes in different sports regardless of their results in competitions. Test results will be sent to the French laboratories of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Athletes testing positive will have their results automatically scrapped

and will later be suspended according to international rules.

No such tests had been done in Arab countries so far because of the high cost of about \$220 per test and the unavailability of such labs in the developing countries.

Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 and the Jordanian sports officials announced their full support of the event noting the importance of taking part in the Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

Jordan had finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Hosts Syria topped the medals table with 48 points, 31 silver, 37 bronze followed by Egypt and Algeria.

The event was due to be held last year but was postponed after the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

Hakkinen leads after free practice

SILVERSTONE (AP) — Mika Hakkinen, in his fifth Formula One season and still looking for his first victory, clocked the quickest time in Friday's free practice sessions for Sunday's British Grand Prix.

Hakkinen, driving for McLaren Mercedes, clocked 1 minute 22.935 seconds with Jacques Villeneuve in a Williams-Renault in second in 1:23.266.

Villeneuve's teammate at Williams — Heinz-Harald Frentzen — was third with a time of 1:23.327 followed by Johnny Herbert in a Sauber petronas in 1:23.581 and Jean Alesi of Benetton in 1:23.785.

Michael Schumacher, the points leader this season after eight races and the winner of the last two Grand Prix races, had the seventh fastest time of 1:24.132.

Defending world champion Damon Hill driving for Arrows-Yamaha, who has finished only two of eight races this season, was 20th of 22 cars in 1:26.810.

Hill and team owner Tom



Arrows formula one driver Damon Hill (L) and his team manager Tom Walkinshaw speak to reporters at Silverstone (Reuters photo)

Walkinshaw have been at odds recently over the car's performance with hill blaming an under-powered engine and Walkinshaw blaming Hill for being unmotivated.

Hill has hinted he will leave the team if a new engine isn't forthcoming.

Graf goes down to 5th in latest WTA rankings

MIAMI (AFP) — Women's world rankings published by world governing body WTA following the conclusion of the Wimbledon championships:

1. Martina Hingis (Swi)	5778 Pts
2. Jana Novotna (Cze)	3556
3. Monica Seles (USA)	3181
4. Iva Majoli (Cro)	3165
5. Steffi Graf (Ger)	2680
6. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa)	2545
7. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	2437
8. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa)	2436
9. Anke Huber (Ger)	2256
10. Mary Pierce (Fra)	2201
11. Conchita Martinez (Spa)	2100
12. Irina Spirlea (Rom)	1871
13. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)	1708
14. Brenda Schultz (Ned)	1579
15. Kimberly Po (USA)	1577
16. Barbara Paulus (Aut)	1442
17. Ruxandra Dragomir (Rom)	1421
18. Karina Habudova (Svk)	1405
19. Sabine Appelmans (Bel)	1325
20. Sandrine Testud (Fra)	1148

If the thought of running your own business appeals to you, then consider the possibility of running your own operation with internationally proven products, training and full technical and administrative support. Outstanding financial rewards can be achieved.

WHY NOT SET UP A BUSINESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH US AS AN OFFSHORE FINANCIAL ADVISOR?

Mondial is an independent offshore brokerage operating in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, Africa, and Latin America. We are part of a large financial Group which provides specialised financial planning to expatriates and non-residents. A combination of technical expertise and marketing flair has enabled Mondial in just seven years to become the leading force in the international financial services industry.

We value experience and maturity and are looking for people aged 25-50 with an impressive track record, keen to become a self employed Offshore Financial Advisor in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and are able to join us now.

Qualifications:

- University degree in Business Administration, Finance, Marketing or related disciplines.
- Experience in Banking, Finance, Marketing etc.

If you can match our requirements please send full personal details to:

The Regional Director Middle East,
P.O. Box 1909
Manama, Bahrain

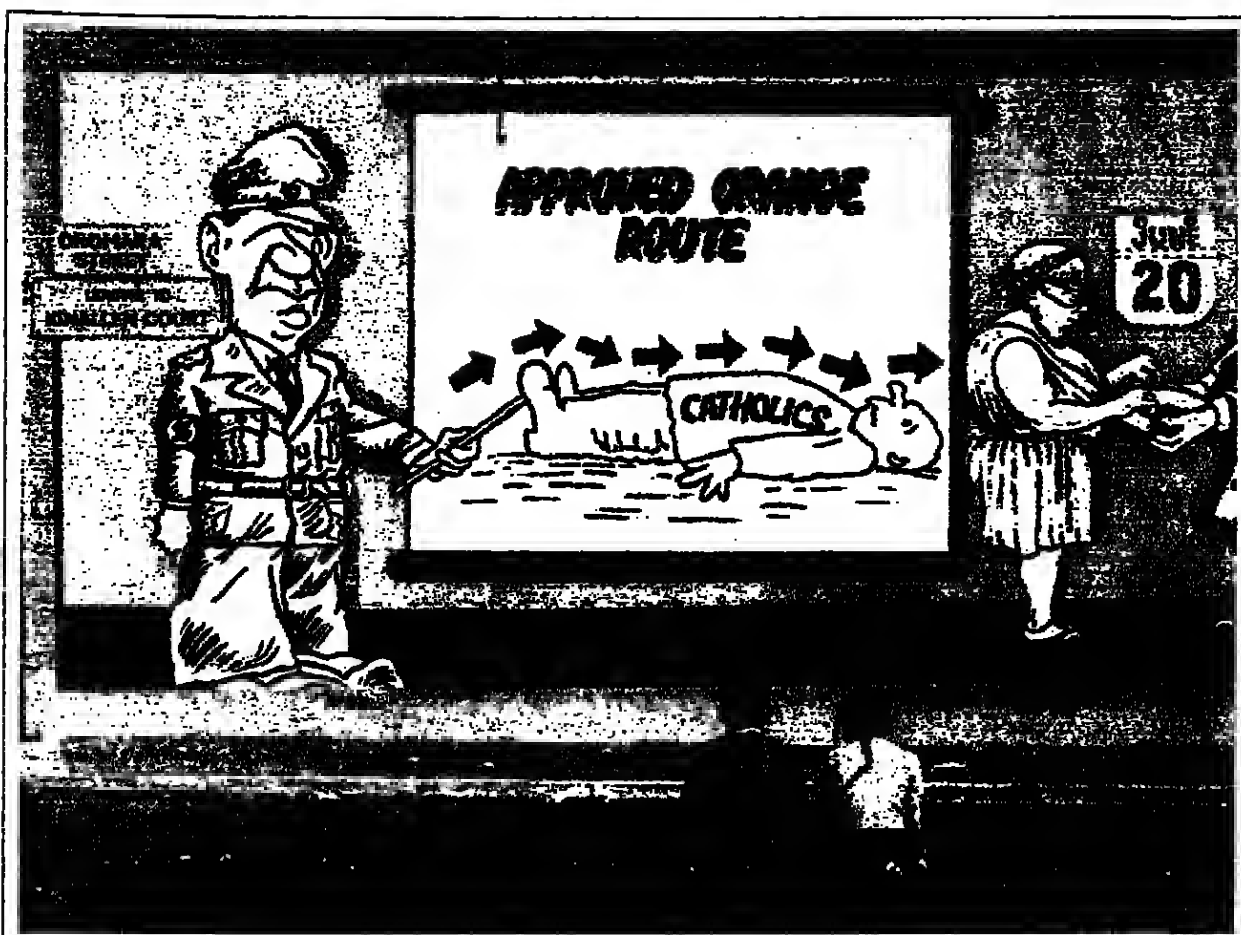
Mondial

START THE SUCCESS STORY OF A LIFETIME

CROWN HOTEL
فندق كراون

SWIM & DANCE
to the Disco Sound of Stallions & the mega mix DJ
(Ghassan Abu Mariam)

at Crown Hotel's
Swimming Pool
on Sunday July 13th
14.00hrs - 19.00hrs
Entrance: couples only, price: 5.500JD per person
Tel: 758180



Children look at a mural on a wall on the Lower Ormeau Road, South Belfast Thursday, expressing Nationalist anger following a parade by Orange men along the Garvaghy Road. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam is caricatured at right, blind folded and washing her hands, while the figure at left in uniform is a reference to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (AFP photo)

Netanyahu wages 'phony' political war

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has taken to papering over the crevasses in his warring coalition by bombarding troublesome ministers with short, intense and meaningless phone calls, a news report said Friday.

The Yediot Aharonot newspaper said that during the recent three-week government reshuffle crisis, while Mr. Netanyahu juggled job offers in a bid to satisfy competing factions, he hit on a bizarre cure to his problems.

"Netanyahu has a patented cure for ministerial anger. Bombard them with telephone calls. Each call creates greater expectations that prevent an explosion at least until the next call," said the paper.

In particular, the paper said,

the premier used this bombarding tactic with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was demanding the finance minister's job and involvement in the peace process.

Quoting deep-throated sources, the paper cited three calls in one day while the political crisis was raging. Mr. Netanyahu uses Mr. Sharon's nickname Arik:

— "Arik, I want to consult with you."

— "I am at your service, prime minister."

— "Are you on a cordless or corded telephone?"

— "I am on a cordless phone."

— "That is not good. When will you be on a corded phone?"

— "In two hours."

— "I'll catch you then."

Two hours later the crisis has worsened, and Mr. Netanyahu calls Mr. Sharon.

— "Arik, can we talk now?"

— "Go ahead."

— "Are you on a cordless or corded phone?"

— "Corded."

— (Embarrassed) "Yes, but now I am on a cordless."

— "Hm-mm."

— "All right then, let's talk later when I am on a corded phone."

Two hours later, the crisis is now at its peak. Mr. Netanyahu phones Mr. Sharon and greets him like a long lost brother.

— "Arik, hi! How is it going?"

— (Coldly) "Nothing new"

— "Are you on a cordless or corded phone?"

— "Corded."

— "So am I. Very good."

Listen, I think we should sit down and talk. I think the thing I want you about is not for the telephone."

The paper says that after each call the news bulletins, after judicious briefing by the premier's aides, report that Mr. Netanyahu consulted with Mr. Sharon on "diplomatic affairs."

It concludes that not only has Mr. Netanyahu kept Mr. Sharon, nicknamed The Bulldozer, at bay for 24 hours but he has also convinced the public that frantic diplomatic discussions are in progress.

Mr. Netanyahu's relationship with Mr. Sharon reached new lows this week after the premier snatched the finance job from him at the last minute and gave it to a close friend.

Egypt enforces ban on female excision

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government will not allow female circumcision in hospitals despite a court ruling which declared a ban on the practice null and void, Health Minister Ismail Sallam said in remarks published on Friday.

Mr. Sallam, quoted in the government newspaper Al Akhbar, said his ministry was challenging the ruling in a higher court, the Supreme Administrative Court.

A lower court, championing the radical Islamist cause against the government, said in June that the minister did not have the authority to ban the ancient practice by decree.

Human rights and feminist groups deplored the ruling, saying it gave doctors the green light to continue female circumcision, also known as

female genital mutilation because of the severe and dangerous forms it often takes.

Some Islamists say the practice is Islamic, though the operation is rarely performed outside African countries and many Muslims dispute the textual authority for it.

Al Akhbar said Mr. Sallam told a conference in the city of Alexandria: "The decision to ban female circumcision was a sound decision, in line with the proper concept of religion. Linking female circumcision with Islam is an insult to the religion."

"He said that the ministry was challenging the verdict in the Supreme Administrative Court and that he would not allow the operation to be performed in hospitals," the paper added.

In previous cases where the government has lost law suits, it has reserved the right to ignore the court ruling until the case completes all stages of the legal process.

In the operation, usually performed on pre-pubescent girls, the doctor or barber cuts off part or all of the clitoris and other genitalia. Sometimes they sew the vaginal opening or even the labia together. Side-effects include haemorrhage, shock and sexual dysfunction.

Women's rights activists estimate around 6,000 girls a day across the world undergo female circumcision.

According to a government study performed earlier this year, 97 per cent of 14,779 Egyptian women polled had been circumcised.

Spanish politician believed kidnapped by separatists

MADRID (R) — Spain has said a town councillor in the Basque region has disappeared and is assumed to have been kidnapped by ETA Basque separatists who have threatened to kill him in 48 hours.

A caller saying he was from ETA told a director at Basque radio Egin, ETA's usual mouthpiece, that Miguel Angel Blanco would be killed if the government did not move Basque prisoners nearer to their homeland. Mr. Blanco is a member of Spain's ruling Popular Party.

"We can confirm that Miguel Angel Blanco has disappeared," Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja told a news conference Thursday after meeting Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

"We find ourselves faced with duress, a threat and

blackmail, although this is not a simple challenge to the government, but a challenge to society," he said.

Mr. Blanco, a town councillor in Ermua, was last seen just after 3 p.m. Thursday leaving his house to catch a train for work in the nearby town of Eibar, Mr. Oreja said.

Shortly afterwards, Egin received the call.

"There was a call by the terrorist band ETA to Egin communicating the kidnap of Mr. Blanco and saying if the government doesn't move all the ETA prisoners closer to the Basque region before Saturday at 4 p.m. they will assassinate him," Interior Ministry spokesman Cayetano Gonzalez said.

ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) has been pushing the Popular Party government to move imprisoned members to jails in the

Basque region. Under a long-standing policy, they are scattered around the country.

A Popular Party spokesman, Angel Acebes, said the government would stand firm on its policy toward the separatist guerrillas and would not bend to their demands.

"Once more the Popular Party reiterates that in ETA's actions of blackmail and terror there must be no distinctions in the way we treat different victims," he told a news conference.

The kidnapping poured cold water on the euphoria that followed the freeing of two ETA hostages last week.

"In the last few days we have shared moments of true happiness and today regretfully we must share moments of anxiety for the life of Miguel Angel," Mr. Oreja said.

American Airlines flight lands for an aspirin

DETROIT (R) — An American Airlines flight made an unscheduled stop in Detroit after a passenger said she needed an aspirin so badly she could kill someone. After the plane landed, police took the passenger, a 29-year-old California woman, into custody for questioning by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Flight 2074 had taken off from Chicago on its way to Newark, N.J., when the woman said, "Boy, have I got a headache. I need an aspirin before I kill someone."

It was unclear to whom the woman made the comment, but it was quickly relayed to the pilot, who notified Detroit airport officials. Police were dispatched to escort the woman off the plane. "The airline took it very seriously,"

Snacks for the love-hungry — chips to whet your sexual appetite

OSLO (AFP) — For the love-hungry whose sex life needs a little pick-me-up, a medical professor in Norway has developed fried chips that increase sexual desire and are guaranteed to make you a "wild beast in the bedroom."

"Yes, it works," I swear," Magné Osnes told the Norwegian daily Dagbladet, adding he has a Norwegian patent on the product, that works for both men and women. "Everybody that has eaten them has been overjoyed," he said.

The Oslo University professor said it takes a few hours for the chips — which look and taste like traditional potato chips, but are made of cleansed bull testicles which have been dried, salted and fried — to take effect. "They contain various anti-oxidants, minerals and B and E vitamins. B vitamins especially affect our ability to enjoy and sense things," he said.

Sarah Netanyahu's ex-husband faces judicial gag over memoirs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli court on Friday moved to stop the ex-husband of first lady Sarah Netanyahu cashing in on their failed marriage with a kiss-and-tell memoir. A court banned Doron Nishnager from "publishing any document or recording of his ex-wife which could damage her image or her privacy," said a judicial source.

Nishnager told the press here earlier this week that he was planning to go ahead and publish his book about life with Benjamin Netanyahu's wife in the 1980s using five video cassettes recorded as therapy and a 93-page letter written by Sarah to his parents as their marriage crumbled. He said he was publishing the material because he was furious at accusations by Sarah that he had recorded her in secret. "What the world knows now is just the tip of the iceberg," Nishnager warned.

Miss Canada stripped of crown after assault conviction

ST. JOHN'S (AFP) — Danielle House, elected Miss Canada last year, was stripped of her title after being convicted of assaulting another woman in a bar, pageant organisers said Thursday. The director of the pageant, Sylvia Stark, said she asked House, 20, to give back her crown following her conviction in a Newfoundland court Wednesday. The role of Miss Canada "is not only to be beautiful" but "to be an example to young people." The court gave House a one-year suspended sentence for assaulting her former boyfriend's new female companion October 18. The decision to depose House comes only a month ahead of the next pageant to find her successor on August 11.

Who is NATO's enemy?

By Lannis Andoni
in Boston

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's success in securing European support to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to include the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary was viewed here as a major American diplomatic victory. Yet the question that remains ambiguous, based on the little debate on the issue, is who is NATO's enemy?

With the exception of very few commentators, like Daniel Shore of National Public Radio, most American politicians and analysts do not raise or answer the question regarding the target of NATO. William Safire, a former aide of the late President Ronald Reagan, is one of the few who hintily state that the expansion is aimed at deterring "a resurgence of Russia" as a super power in his column in the New York Times. Mr. Safire, a former official in the Richard Nixon administration, argued that Russia remains a threat to the West.

"The essential reason for bringing the formerly captive nations of Eastern Europe into the successful military alliance is to deter any future power in Europe by a resurgence of Russia," he wrote.

"Now is the strategic moment to prevent such a resurgence appearing. An era of easy expansion is over. It is worth a tonne of contemplation tomorrow. Russia is down but far from out. With its literate population and unlimited resources, it will regain its superpower status soon," Mr. Safire, usually a critic of Mr. Clinton's policies, said.

But the administration itself does not promote the same line — at least not explicitly. In his statements, Mr. Clinton tries to assure Russia that the move is not aimed against it and so far the administration has been

careful not to mention any of the former Soviet republics as potential candidates for NATO membership.

In the American media, so far, most of the defenders of NATO expansion have been the old cold-warriors who either want to ensure the U.S. sole superpower status or still see communism lurking in every corner. Yom Novak, a former broadcaster for the CIA-backed anti-communist radio, Europe, put forward another theory. "This is the beginning of these countries' reintegration into the Western spirit," Mr. Novak, who fled Poland after World War II, said in defence of NATO expansion.

Mr. Novak's thinking reflects the old cold-warriors' school that argued that Western values are exclusively compatible with capitalism. According to his school of thought, Russia and some Eastern European countries are not yet free from the old guard former communist bureaucrats.

Consequently, an expansion of NATO is, from this view point, crucial for defeating "the old guard," and stem the communist influence forever.

Some Congress members and politicians, mainly in the liberal camp, express strong reservations that NATO expansion, and the implied anti-Russian tone, could be counterproductive to efforts to integrate Russia in the U.S.-led Western system. They argue that Russia, and all those left out-side, will feel threatened and intimidated by the move.

Thus the strongest argument against NATO expansion so far has been that the resulting polarisation of Europe could defeat one of the most of the important goals for the move — ensuring the continent's stability.

"Enlargement may undermine the very security and stability they are seeking," wrote Professor Alvin Rubenstein, from the University of Pennsylvania,

in the journal "Problem of Post-communism." He argued that the move will repolarise Europe and alienate Russia. Moscow may question its commitment to nuclear down sizing and cooperation.

The administration, however, does not define the presumed enemy leaving the question open. "... Could you please tell us who is the enemy?" asked the respected Shore in a recent commentary. Shore was also frustrated at the lack of a serious debate, in the mainstream media and the Washington establishment, about who is the enemy that NATO is supposed to counter.

Instead, the debate that exists focuses on questions regarding the financial and military cost of the expansion to the U.S. The Congress estimates the expansion to cost \$19 billion in the next fifteen years. The administration estimates the cost at \$0 per cent less.

Some members of the Congress and the Senate are also wary of the military commitment that is entailed in NATO expansion. "Is it a commitment of blood and money?" is one question that is being raised in some political circles who are wary of a future U.S. entanglement in conflicts in Europe.

The administration, however, has repeatedly argued that NATO expansion was the necessary step to prevent and preempt further conflicts in Europe — a point that is in question by opponents of the move who fear more instability in the continent.

Mr. Clinton has made it clear that will not start discussing the treaty amendment till early next year. He needs two-thirds of the vote for a ratification — which he is expected to get unless the predictions about a deterioration of stability in Europe, from the resulting polarisation, prove to be true earlier than expected, as some analysts caution.

NEW

Cinderella Wings

Another FINE Product

REGULAR

20 Pads

MAXI

14 Pads

FINE offers you extra comfort and confidence

Made by FINE Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd. Tel. 722251 P.O. Box 154 Amman 11118 Jordan